Examining the Evolving Role of the Kenyan Military in National Development

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Abstract

Military involvement in enhancing human security has been a trend in the last few decades. Under the realist paradigm, the state is the main actor in the international system, and its survival is dependent upon sufficient power to pursue and defend its national interests. However, the security spectrum has broadened beyond traditional external military threats. Thus, human security has emerged with the individual being the referent object. Government initiatives, towards building state capacity and development, deal with enhancing human security, making it possible for the military to intervene and boost development efforts from within. Expectedly, the involvement of the military in development has provoked multiple arguments. Scholars have argued that this approach diverts already scarce manpower and resources from their primary task. Due to the perceived danger that their neighbouring states pose to them. The involvement of the military in national development has been justified on the grounds that the disciplined forces have filled in where civilian authority had failed or underperformed. Hence leveraging on the unique capabilities and capacities within the military. This paper examines the evolving role of Kenyan military in national development. Desktop research, review of existing literature such as books, journals, reports, legal documents, and articles, are used in this research.

Key Words: *Development, Military, Human Security, Nation, Security.*

Introduction

Traditionally security has been strictly understood in military terms, according to classical political thinkers. As highlighted by Sabine, the military was not envisioned as having any place or role in internal state matters (Sabine, 1973). Instead, the military's role is solely viewed through a security lens, and its sole function is national defence. This means that there is a lack of a central government that can enforce laws in the international system (Donnelly, 2000). However, this does not imply that the international system is necessarily chaotic, instead, the power of a state is countered by the power of another state. In this system, states focus on their own capabilities and how they can exercise influence over each other. Military forces are an example of such a capability perhaps the most important kind. The size, composition, and preparedness of two states' military forces matter more in a short-term military confrontation than their respective economies or natural resources (Donnelly, 2000).

This strict understanding of the role of the military in state matters has shifted during the contemporary period. There has developed an understanding among some scholars that focusing on safeguarding the 'core values' of a state from military threats that emanate from outside its borders is no longer adequate (Krause & Williams, 1996). The Neorealist understanding of the concept of security continues to be questioned and pushed. Following publications such as the United National Development Programme (UNDP) Report of 1994, the idea that the state is the referent object of security is challenged (United Nations Development Programme, 1994). The report was key in highlighting that the threats that face the existence of a state are not just external, and the importance of prioritizing the citizenry as the referent object in the international system and of security.

The focus on human security at the individual level has led to the inclusion of a range of issues into the potential threats that require a larger focus such as economic and environmental issues to human rights and migration (Krause & Williams, 1996). Human security and human development are issues that gained traction after the Second World War when a new institutional liberal order devised a two-fold security agenda, hoping to put an end to the widespread

conflict that had characterized the majority of the 20th Century (Dowdeswell, 1996). The assumption that a nexus exists between security and development continues to be pushed through two key arguments. Firstly, that underdevelopment serves as a threat to the people and also contributes to the formation of a breeding ground for other threats, such as conflict or war (Stern & Ojendal, 2010). Secondly, the resulting conflict from underdevelopment leads to the deterioration of human and developmental security, thus trapping communities into a cycle of 'low-development-conflict-worse-harsher-conflict', according to Donadoni (2018). Meaning that conflicts emerge due to the conditions that characterize underdevelopment, and the resulting conflict then leads to more underdevelopment, continuing the cycle.

It is to this end that issues surrounding human development are increasingly being prioritized in matters of national strategy, while more actors in the international system such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), individuals, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), international bodies/organizations, as well as states continue to push for agendas that support human development and equity. Internally, states are making various efforts to ensure that the citizenry's needs are met and developmental agendas and goals are achieved. While notable effort has been made, and there is notable progress in the quality of lives that people lead as a result of this, there are still areas where the civilian-operated parts of the government have fallen short. Due to the resources that exist within the military such as human resources, financial, and infrastructural resources among others, the military has been engaged in efforts to enhance national development efforts. Some examples of these have been highlighted in this paper.

Theoretical Framework

This paper is underpinned by the understanding of Human Security and the crucial place this concept of security plays in the survival of the state. Before the end of the Second World War, the dominant concept of security was state-centric, which was a result of the Westphalia Treaty of 1648. The Westphalia Treaty has had lasting effects on International Relations, the most significant of which is the idea of state sovereignty (Patton, 2019). It is under this treaty that states have focused on protecting and preserving their internationally-recognized

borders. This has meant that territorial integrity, political stability, military and defence arrangements and economic and financial activities have been the focus of security institutes (Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, 2010). However, as was highlighted in the United Nations Development Programme Human Development Report 1994, the concept of security has for too long been narrowly interpreted.

Human security is freedom from fear and want. This concept of security focuses on what safety means to people in the 21st Century. There are four essential concepts tied to human security as outlined in the UNDP Report: first that human security is universal, meaning that it concerns all people around the globe, no matter the country of origin. Second, the components of human security are interdependent. Thus, when the security of one group of people in one part of the world is compromised, this has an adverse effect on another group of people in another part of the world. Third, it is easier to secure human security through prevention rather than intervention. Comparatively, it is less costly to deal with the threats to human security before they manifest than after. For instance, it is easier to invest in primary health care, than it is to deal with HIV/AIDS outbreak. Fourth, human security is at its core human-centric. Human security deals with how people live within society, the social opportunities available to them, and whether they reside in conflict or peace (UNDP, 1994).

The international system has shifted, at the global level. Human security responds to the threat that global poverty, climate change, and illegal immigration etc pose to society. The need for global safeguards from these threats is imperative. There exists a security-development nexus The nexus assumes that as former UN secretary-general Kofi Annan once stated, "development and security are inextricably linked" (Stern & Ojendal, 2010). As stated before, underdevelopment can create the breeding ground for conflict. Thus, this paper proposes that similar to the institutional shift that has occurred where policies now reflect on the UNDP Report, for instance, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Kenyan military should be engaged in development efforts in the country to enhance national and global security.

Methodology

This is a desktop review making use of secondary data from books, journal articles government documents and Newspaper reports to analyse the the activities of Kenya military in different spheres of development.

Discussions and Analysis of findings

Military Involvement in National Development Efforts

The functions of the United States (US) army following its independence through the 1800s act as a good example of how crucial the military can be in national development. It not only acted squarely on defence and security but also undertook the development of its state, especially important infrastructural projects and supply of critical goods and services. It is plausible to say the US army was and has been a key contributor to the developmental progress of the United States.

According to scholars such as William Adler, the army used to supply public goods that were needed for economic development surpassing those that individual states could supply during a time when they were unable to do so (Adler, 2021). According to Alder, the army contributed widely to the state's economic growth and accelerated industrialization sooner than would have been the case in early America (Adler, 2021). The army trained and provided the private sector with engineers during a time when engineering expertise was scarce and also established the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on March 16, 1802, which has been an important instrument in the development of the state. At the moment, USACE provides outdoor recreation, is the nation's environmental engineer, owns and operates more than 600 dams, provides technical and construction support to more than 100 countries, researches and develops technologies to protect the nation's environment and enhance the quality of life among other activities towards development (USACE, 2022).

In the health sector, the US army has been at the frontline for more than 200 years, and this has led to significant advances in the medical field. It is the army doctors that came up with the first US-based surgical textbook and that established the

first American school of preventive medicine and public health (USAMRDC, 2022). There are also medical research labs established by the US military both in the US and abroad that conduct research and initial development of biologies to prevent infectious diseases. The biologies include; devices, diagnostics, drugs, vaccines, and insect repellents. The history of the US military research lab abroad can be traced back to around 1900, with the establishment of the Yellow Fever Commission in Cuba (Maj. Gambel, 1996). Today, there is the US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command that manages and executes research in five basic areas: military infectious diseases, combat casualty care, military operational medicine, chemical biological defence, and clinical and rehabilitative medicine (USAMRDC, 2022).

In his article, Jonathan Kaplan describes the Israel army, which is officially known as Israel Defence Forces (IDF), as a central institution in Israeli society. Kaplan argues that IDF is generally perceived to be a 'nation builder' and other than defence, which is its primary goal, has taken up many other social tasks (Kaplan, 2015). In education, for example, there is a special system of apprenticeship programs under the IDF that caters for young Israelis who have records of juvenile crime or delinquency. These young people are each allocated to a senior mechanic who acts as their personal mentor. This program has been successful in reforming individuals and increasing the number of trained mechanics in Israeli society. It has also been beneficial in reducing the number of potential members of street gangs and of those who might become involved in more serious crimes (Lt. Shaw, 1979).

Within IDF, there is a unit called the *Nahal* (Fighting Pioneering Youth) through which the army established military settlements that combined farming with regional defence. These settlements were usually founded and maintained by Zionist youth groups but were later turned over to civilian groups. The *Nahal* established most of the Israeli settlements in the Jordan Valley and the Arava (Kaplan, 2015).

Senegal is described as a democratic model with a history of peaceful transitions of power, free and fair elections, and accountable civilian government since its independence despite being in a region suffering from democratic backsliding

and coups (State Department, 2022). While Senegal appears to be 'weak' from an institutional perspective, its military has been proactive compared to all other state institutions in national development (Matisek, 2019).

Its first president Léopold Sédar Senghor and General Diallo assisted in the development of the concept of Armée-Nation. The concept has been popular since the early years of independence and has acted as the backbone of the military's participation in development activities. It can be argued that this concept has been accepted by civilians and is also widely studied in the military. Through the spirit of Armée-Nation, the Senegalese military participated domestically by setting up a civil-military committee in 1999 to support development by bringing together representatives from parliament, the military, government ministries, civil society and the private sector to collaborate in implementing public programs (Col. Diop, 2011). In conjunction with the ministry of environment and conservation, the Senegalese military is actively participating in the realization of the state's portion of the 7,000-kilometer great green wall which was an initiative by African states to build stop desert advancement.

Armée-Nation has enabled the Senegalese Armed Forces to work with civilians in improving their lives while remaining apolitical and professional. This has created a self-reinforcing cycle of goodwill, respect, trust, and pride among the Senegalese people and has enabled the military to enjoy a better reputation within Senegal compared to other militaries in some African countries (Col. Diop, 2011).

Composition and Mandate of the Kenyan Military

The key to understanding, if the success of military engagement in national development efforts would work in Kenya, is first to understand whether the mandate of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) allows for such action. As well as under what circumstances would it be most productive to engage in such activities. KDF is comprised of services: The Kenya Army, Kenya Navy, and Kenya Air Force. The commander-in-chief of all the armed forces is the President of Kenya. The current Kenya Defence Forces were established under Article 241 of the 2010 Kenyan Constitution and are governed by the Kenya Defence Force Act of 2012 (Kenya, 2013).

As currently constituted, the Kenya Defence Forces are composed of Kenya Army, Kenya Air-force and Kenya Navy. In 2014, the Ministry of State for Defence listed the following Kenya Army formations and services Kenya Army Infantry; Kenya Army Paratroopers; Kenya Army Armoured Brigade; Kenya Army Artillery Brigade; Kenya Army Engineers Brigade; 50 Air Cavalry Battalion; Kenya Army Ordnance Corps; Kenya Army Corps of Transport; Kenya Army Electrical and Mechanical Engineering; Kenya Army Corps of Signals; Military Police Corps; Kenya Army Education Corps; Medical Battalion; and Defence Forces Constabulary (DFC) (Kenya, 2013).

The 2010 Constitution of Kenya replaced the 1969 Constitution, which itself had replaced the 1963 independence Constitution. Under article 241, *Establishment of Defence Forces and Defence Council*. The Defence Council which consists of the Cabinet Secretary responsible for defence, who is the chairperson; the Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces; the three commanders of the defence forces; and the Principal Secretary in the Ministry responsible for defence is responsible for the overall policy, control, and supervision of the Kenya Defence Forces (Kenya, 2013).

Kenya has a decent reputation in peacekeeping across the world. Kenya's military officers have also served in senior leadership positions in various missions around the world. According to Kenya's Ministry of Defence, "Kenya is a key supporter of UN peacekeeping efforts in the international system. Kenya has over the years remained receptive to requests to contribute to peace operations based on the consent of the parties in the host state" (MoD, 2022).

Current national development efforts where the Military is active in Kenya

Since the beginning of the 21ˢᵗ Century, many nations around the world have adopted a broader, multifaceted and multi-actor/multi-agency approach in the management of public affairs including issues touching on human security and hence human development. Kenya is no exception. As a lower middle-income country in the global south and as a burgeoning economy and a consolidating democracy, Kenya has endeavoured to engage its security institutions in a

manner that they do not merely remain "security actors" in the traditional sense but important players in the wider discourse of human security and human development (Maupeu, 2021). One institution that continues to play such a role is the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF). With over six decades of professional experience, Kenya's military has in many ways complemented and/or supplemented other governmental structures, ministries, departments, and agencies in a manner that has enriched its role in the wider realm of national development. Under the Constitution, Kenya's military operates under civilian authority in which it is charged with the duty of securing the state from external threats as well as assisting civilian authorities in times of dire need and complex emergencies over and above other national duties that are meant to enhance the general well-being of the people of Kenya. In this direction, Kenya's military has been tasked in various capacities to support a number of critical aspects of human security and general human development of the nation (Maupeu, 2021).

As part of the Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) activities, KDF personnel have engaged in the development of water and water-related resource management especially in the arid and semi-arid parts of the state by way of afforestation exercises, water pan construction, the sinking of boreholes, and distribution of clean water for domestic consumption and agricultural use at the community level. Lamu, Isiolo, and Marsabit have benefited from this project. For instance, Basuba village in Lamu East was rendered two complete water plans on October 7, 2021, which is expected to provide water to over 1,000 homes and neighbouring counties including Garissa and Tana River (KDF, 2021).

At another level, KDF has also been involved in processes associated with enhancing health security in the state especially through enabling access to health facilities and health services to communities through the construction of dispensaries, hospitals and community health centres in various parts of the state, especially where the poor and marginalized population are concerned. In Lamu, KDF has renovated the Kiunga Health Center. It has also conducted medical camps in parts of Laikipia, Turkana, and Lamu. Over 1,000 patients benefited from a free consultations and medical care. Reports mention that the KDF surgeons successfully conducted operations on four individuals in Lamu. In

collaboration with the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union (KMPDU), the duo attended to over 6,000 residents of Lokichar and Morulem in Turkana County on a two-day free medical camp. In addition, they performed successful cataract surgeries, and cervical cancer screening among others (Ombati, 2019).

Further, the KDF has been involved in the advancement and application of science and technology for the purposes of enhancing food security. For example, the KDF has been involved in value-added processing, and technology targeting proper storage and packaging of fruits and vegetables which are made available to communities, especially in far-flung areas where environmental stress and the adverse effects of climate change normally take a toll on communities (Maupeu,2021). On September 7, 2020, the KDF was tasked with the management of the KMC, a government-owned meat processor and marketer which is directly linked to the livelihoods of millions of cattle/livestock farmers across the state. For the period that the military has run the institution, much improvement has been realized in terms of timely and efficient management of the beef/meat subsector in the state not only for the local market but also for export purposes. Due to the efficiency in running KMC, it recorded a profit of Ksh. 150 million from Ksh. 5 million in the 3rd quarter of the first year KDF took over (Ahmed, 2022).

Like other modern military establishments around the world, Kenya's defence and security architecture is an important facet in the wider strategic growth of the state especially when it comes to matters of strategic planning of various aspects that add value to Kenya's grand strategic outlook. This has been operationalized through research and training at various levels where important matters of strategic and developmental importance to the state have been addressed through the training and research undertaken under the rubric of KDF research and training institutions that include the Defence Forces Medical Training School (DFMTS), Defence College of Health Sciences, Defence Forces Technical College (DEFTEC), Joint Command and Staff College (JCSC), the Joint Warfare Center (JWC), International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC), the Kenya Military Academy (KMA) and the National Defence (NDC), all of which are constituent colleges of the newly established National Defence University–Kenya

(NDU-K). Each year, these institutions train and conduct research on many aspects relating to human development and the grand strategic outlook of the state; where matters to do with regional integration, regional security, humanitarian operations, health, disaster prevention and management, diplomacy, and conflict management among others are examined for the betterment of Kenya's national interest and overall national development (Maupeu, 2021).

It is also worth mentioning that from time to time, serving as well as retired KDF personnel have been involved in special taskings and undertakings for purposes of training as well as technically supporting other governmental agencies not only as administrators and managers of various establishments such as the police, and the intelligence machinery but also specific line ministries and departments including at ports and airport management, the coastal guard establishment (Kenya Coast Guard Services), specific devolved structures such as the former Nairobi Metropolitan Service (NMS), the Kenya Space Agency (KSA), the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA), the National Air Support Department (NASD), and the Kenya Railway Corporation (KRC) as well as serving in various boards of governmental many parastatals (Baraka,2020).

The KDF also plays critical roles in matters of diplomacy and foreign relations either as ambassadors or high commissioners but also as special envoys to various regions and context-specific tasks to do with matters of peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction and development not only in Africa but the world over. The force has served in Namibia, Sierra Leone, Sudan (African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur [UNAMID]), Chad and recently Congo. The Quick Reaction Force (QRF) proceeded to join other contingent forces from Nepal, Tanzania and South Africa in the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) (Achuka, 2022).

Challenges and Prospects

Kenya is currently recovering from the COVID-19 Pandemic, which had numerous political, social, and economic repercussions. While the state has implemented many political and economic changes to promote sustainable

growth, social development, and political stability, Kenya still confronts many obstacles. Youth unemployment, inequality, poverty, climate change, transparency and accountability, poor private sector investment, and economic susceptibility to internal and external shocks are key development concerns in Kenya (The World Bank, 2022).

These issues are interconnected. Most vulnerable communities or groups experience inequities and lack of chances. Unemployment is common among the youth which counts 16.3% of 20-to-24-year-olds were jobless in 2021. (Kamer, 2022). Lack of employment is caused by corruption where opportunities in Kenya are rarely given freely without tribalism or nepotism links (Rakewa, 2018). Kenya's perceived corruption index is rated 128th out of 180 nations in 2021. (Masinde, 2022). Many political officials in the nation have been involved in scandals and corruption charges, but the pattern is a lack of adequate accountability and openness. This absence of proper repercussions has hurt development aims and ambitions and caused the failure of several development efforts. The wealth gap between upper- and lower-class Kenyans is widening. 17.1 million Kenyans, or 36.1% of the population, live below the international poverty level of $1.90 a day (Human Rights Watch, 2021).

Ways the military may assist to improve human sectors that effect national security

Climate change has and will continue to harm the state. Kenya's tea output is affected by this change hence a decline is expected. Kenya is the world's largest provider of black tea, although ideal and medium tea-growing regions are expected to decline by 25% and 40% by 2050. (Bhalla, 2021). Tea Farming is one of the state's primary currency-earning businesses, along with tourism and remittances, and employs three million people (Bhalla, 2021). Commercial farming is not the only kind of farming that has been impacted by climate change; most farmers in Kenya rely on rain, which has led to drought and famine.

From July to September 2022, 3.5 million individuals face severe food insecurity, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (National Drought Management Authority, 2022). The delayed and depressed March, April, and

May rainfall damaged agricultural, pasture, and water supply in the state. Below-normal, irregular, and poorly distributed rainfall hampered rain-fed agricultural output. This, along with a delayed rain, hampered seed germination and growth. South-eastern Marginal Mixed farming had total crop failure, affecting food stocks and the local market (National Drought Management Authority, 2022).

In Kenya, rain-dependent agricultural techniques are being addressed to combat food insecurity. Civilian efforts haven't been enough to stop the problem. This is concerning since the most vulnerable areas over-rely on rain-dependent economic activities and have a rising population, making them prone to violent conflict to secure already limited resources (Saddam, 2022). Galana Kalalu projects are among the Kenya Vision 2030 activities that may help to food security (Mbuthia & Wakhungu, 2021). Kenya has misused its potential. Kenya has 1.3 million hectares of irrigation potential, but only 150,600 were irrigated in 2018. (Mbuthia & Wakhungu, 2021). This lags behind Africa's irrigation titans.

As we discuss the Galana Kalalu project and food insecurity in Kenya, we must also consider how the Kenyan military might assist. The Kenyan military may revive and start similar programs. The military may provide knowledge and people for such initiatives. It may be simpler to convey military personnel's expertise of established infrastructure to civilians. While not facing Galana Kalalu-like problems (Maupeu, 2021).

Kenya is marked by rural-urban migration. This migratory tendency is generally ascribed to economic and social possibilities in metropolitan regions that may not be accessible in rural locations. Pastoral communities also move in large numbers inside the state, from one rural region to another or rural-urban. The military can also help nomadic populations.

Indeed, the rapid climate change in Kenya has had adverse effects on economic activities that are rain-reliant. In Kenya, this also includes pastoralism. The impact of this rapid change of climate has been prolonged drought, and thus these communities are faced with exacerbated land degradation and desertification, poor crop yield and forage reductions, as well as a spike in animal diseases and livestock losses (HABITABLE Project, 2021). These conditions have made these

groups vulnerable to food insecurity, malnutrition, and resource conflict. The noted essential coping mechanism to overcome the aforementioned hardships is mobility, particularly seasonal migration, whereby these communities will for a time seek out new land to forage and find water for their livestock (Perch-Nielsen et al.,2008). Traditionally this form of coping mechanism was sustainable. However, today bearing in mind the rise in population and the resulting land pressure in Kenya coupled with the increase in the increase and frequency of droughts in the region, this solution is no longer sustainable (HABITABLE Project, 2021).

These rapidly evolving challenges have created complex situations, pastoral communities have now resorted to changing their traditional routes of migration, which has then led to conflicts with other communities. Pastoral communities have also been characterized by an increased vulnerability to cattle rustling, an issue that further puts strain on the few resources that are available to this vulnerable group (Gumba, 2020). The military is well equipped to help with the latter issue. Solutions to the issues that are facing these pastoralists would be to first offer protection. The military has the expertise and capability to ensure that nomadic communities are safe as they transverse the country in search of food and water. While cattle rustling or cattle raiding has always been viewed as a cultural practice that helps redistribute wealth. Unfortunately, 2017 and 2018 were characterised by high-intensity conflicts during cattle raids that left dozens killed or maimed, and negatively affected human security and development in the region (Gumba, 2020). This was in Kenya's West Pokot and Elgeyo-Marakwet counties.

It is instructive to note that cattle raiding was fundamentally changed when nomadic communities acquired illicit firearms, trafficked from neighbouring countries such as Ethiopia in the 1980s. Guns weaponised conventional raiding and through force, enabled the acquisition of large herds of livestock, which precipitated commercialised cattle raiding (Daghar & Okumu, 2021). This illicit 'enterprise' is run by "Cattle Warlords", who are spurred on by the rising demand for cattle in the region. Pastoralists are targeted as they move from dry regions to areas with pasture. The increase in frequency and intensity of drought has increased this window of vulnerability. The act has also gained popularity among

the youth, who are recruited as they look for alternative means of livelihood, which they have been unable to secure through pastoralism. Additionally, with the introduction of firearms, organised criminal groups have increasingly recruited and used underage children to conduct cattle raids. Cattle rustling has also been connected to human trafficking (Daghar & Okumu, 2021). The military resources can be utilized in this situation to can help protect nomadic groups from attacks from these cartels, and also the identification these individuals/groups that are providing illicit arms to these raiders.

Infrastructure is crucial to the survival and positive growth of any state. It is not an exaggeration to state that concrete, steel and fibre-optic cable are the fundamental building blocks of the economy. This is because infrastructure enables trade, powers businesses, connects workers to their jobs, creates opportunities for struggling communities and protects the nation from an increasingly unpredictable natural environment (Puentes, 2015). Different forms of infrastructure serve as a mode of employment, from the construction of dams and roads, hospitals and railway lines, to the maintenance of these resources. Thousands if not millions of people earn a livelihood directly from the establishment and maintenance of infrastructure.

National development goals are interlinked with infrastructure. For instance, it is through the development of wind and solar farms as well as the establishment of geothermal and hydropower plants that greenhouse gas emissions are diminished (Puentes, 2015). The turn of the century has been characterized by a boom in investment in infrastructure in Kenya. It is no secret that this has been in part due to the interest that China has taken in the African Continent, and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) (Munene, 2022). Kenya has also outlined its developmental goals by committing to the realization of the 17 Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs) and setting out to achieve Vision 2030. Among the flagship development infrastructure projects that have been undertaken is the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) (Munene, 2022).

Kenya has also made great strides in the energy sector, as part of its initiative to use Clean Energy and eliminate the production of Greenhouse Gasses. The

state boasts a variety of clean energy sources such as hydropower, geothermal, bioenergy, wind and solar farming (Centurion, 2022). Hydropower is used to generate energy in specific locations of Kenya, primarily around the country's five major rivers: Lake Victoria, the Tana River, the Great Rift Valley, the Sabaki River and the Ewaso North River. However, variable rainfall patterns and droughts periodically diminish system production and reliability, necessitating the integration of backup oil-fired power plants into larger hydro networks (Centurion, 2022). This is not a sustainable solution to the issue as it leaves Kenya's oil energy vulnerable to shocks in the international oil market.

This is not the only challenge that Kenya faces in this sector, in accordance with Vision 2030, other forms of sustainable clean energy sources are being exploited, key among them is the Wind Farms to be installed. The most notable of which is the Lake Turkana Wind Power Project. Unfortunately, these projects have been met with resistance from indigenous groups, despite the fact that these vulnerable groups are the communities projected to be most aided by the presence of these farms. In 2020, the Baharini Wind Power Project was nullified by the county government after a failure to adhere to resettlement agreements (Kavilu, 2021). This is not the only project that failed, The Kinangop Wind Park, was in a similar fashion for the same reason. Even the Lake Turkana Wind Power Project has been stalled for similar reasons.

While the military is not the right actor to be engaged in conflicts that go on between indigenous communities and foreign investment firms, they can play a role in the space of innovative research. Home-grown and home-led infrastructural projects are key. The military is uniquely placed to have both the local and technical knowledge to the best advice on what areas are more suitable to develop certain projects. The military also boasts a level of efficiency that cannot be rivalled, when engaged with the civilian population they can help create capacity to develop projects from within that do not require over-whelming foreign-led projects that are not aware of the local nuances and realities.

Conclusion

In the contemporary world, the state is faced with varying threats. A number of these threats are human-security centred and have the potential to undermine the society that makes the state. The military holds within itself the unique ability to provide aid in instances where the civilian population has fallen short or is incapable as outlined in the paper above. The efforts that have been made and continue to be made should be encouraged, to ensure capacity building and foster closer relations between the civilian population and the defence forces. There is a need for innovation within certain aspects of the maintenance of infrastructure. This is an opportunity for collaboration between civilians and military personnel, to establish sustainable and long-lasting solutions.

Recommendations

i. The Kenya military should work at the intersection of human security and development in light of the local and national-level protracted crises, conflicts, natural disasters, pandemics, and epidemics which are increasingly undercutting prospects for peace and stability, as well as sustainable development. This is possible by leveraging the systems thinking approach where strategic actors – both civil and military – purposely engage to identify the points of intersection in enhancing development and ensuring state stability.

ii. The military, through its research locus such as the newly-founded National Defence University, Kenya and its affiliate centres, should strive to be centres of excellence to gain/increase public confidence and trust to deliver beyond their traditional military roles.

iii. To mitigate the adversarial Climate Change-related impact, the military, in consultation in with the civilian authority should consider interventions such as expanding forest conversation activities and its protection; develop locally-owned and managed irrigation projects; and engage in mass education drives on climate change.

iv. Through a harmonised security framework, the military should actively engage the local leadership (at the trans-county and county levels) and pastoral communities to help in the recovery of illicit arms among these community members. However, beyond containing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, the complex social-political-economic curse of cattle rustling should be a priority to both the political leadership and the military think tanks.

v. The military can also be positively engaged in identifying alternative economic ventures for the youth in these communities who are vulnerable to recruitment into harmful groups. While active recruitment is an option among these groups, it is also important to push for other forms of apprenticeship such as carpentry and engineering. This helps to cultivate the economy of the community and develops a relationship between the community and the military.

vi. Additionally, the military should increase partnerships strategically geared towards developmental and human security-based initiatives with other foreign military affiliates in order to learn from the best practices.

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