



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY HON. WILLIAM  
SAMOEI RUTO, Ph.D., C.G.H., PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF KENYA AND COMMANDER-IN-  
CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCES, DURING THE  
DESTRUCTION OF ILLICIT FIREARMS**

**JUNE 13, 2025**

**THE NATIONAL POLICE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY,  
NGONG, KAJIADO COUNTY**

1. A firearm in the wrong hands is not just a potent weapon; it is a direct assault on the safety of our citizens, the stability of our society, and the peace we have worked so diligently to build. In the hands of criminals, such a firearm enables lawlessness, escalates violence, and undermines the rule of law.
2. Today's ceremony, which marks the destruction of more than 6,000 illegal firearms recovered between 2022 and 2025, therefore sends a clear and powerful message: we will not allow violence to take root in our communities, and we remain firmly committed to disarming those who threaten our peace and to strengthening the safety and security of every citizen.
3. I am encouraged to note that a majority of the firearms being destroyed today were voluntarily surrendered by the public, who responded positively to our amnesty programmes and community disarmament campaigns. A significant number was also recovered through the diligent efforts of our security agencies during targeted operations.
4. I commend both our security agencies and responsible citizens, including religious and community leaders, whose civic-mindedness and patriotism have made this national milestone possible. Because of their efforts, our families, communities, and nation are safer.
5. The government's commitment to safeguarding the lives of Kenyans, as enshrined in our Constitution, continues to guide our actions in combating the proliferation of illicit arms. This commitment is further demonstrated by our engagement with regional, continental, and global partners through diplomatic and security frameworks.



6. Our efforts to recover illicit small arms and light weapons are aligned with the African Union's "Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2030" initiative, led by the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons. While this target remains a work in progress, I am proud to affirm that Kenya has made commendable strides towards that vision.
7. The fact that many Kenyans have voluntarily surrendered illegal firearms is a strong indication that our peace and security strategy is working. It reflects growing public confidence in the government's resolve to maintain order and protect lives.
8. That said, we cannot afford complacency. The Eastern Africa region remains awash with illegal small arms and light weapons, many of which can easily cross our borders and infiltrate our communities. To achieve lasting peace, we must continue working tirelessly to remove all illegal weapons from circulation, both within Kenya and across the region.
9. I therefore call upon all citizens who may possess illegal firearms to take advantage of the current amnesty and surrender these weapons to the authorities. Do not wait. An illegal firearm makes you less safe; it compromises your safety rather than securing it. Regardless of your intentions, possession of illegal firearms is unlawful, and those found in possession will face the full force of the law.
10. If you have genuine security concerns, the proper course of action is to engage with law enforcement agencies. We are here to listen, to respond, and to ensure your safety through lawful and structured means.



11. In the same vein, I direct all State agencies that are custodians of government-issued firearms to uphold strict accountability and ensure proper management and control of arms under their charge. Any form of pilferage, diversion, or misuse of State firearms must be prevented with utmost vigilance.
12. Ladies and Gentlemen, Kenya has consistently championed the adoption of strong and universal frameworks in arms control. Consequently, we are actively considering the ratification of global treaties, such as the Arms Trade Treaty, which seeks to regulate international trade in conventional arms and prevent their illicit diversion and misuse. Accordingly, I direct the relevant State departments and agencies to begin the necessary processes and establish modalities for Kenya to sign all relevant arms control treaties that align with our national interest and security imperatives.
13. At this juncture, I wish to recognise and thank the National Police Service, particularly the Kenya National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons, for their exemplary coordination and facilitation of the many stakeholders engaged in this mission. Your commitment and diligence are deeply appreciated.
14. Allow me to also congratulate our valued partners in arms control, including the Regional Centre for Small Arms and the Member States, as you mark 20 years of coordinating the region's response to the control and management of small arms and light weapons. I also acknowledge other national and international partners who continue to support Kenya in this vital endeavour.



15. In closing, let us reflect on what this occasion represents: a resolute stand against violence, a renewed pledge to safeguard our communities, and a reaffirmation of our collective responsibility to build a safer Kenya. The destruction of these firearms is not merely a symbolic act; it is a tangible declaration that we reject the tools of harm and embrace the values of peace, order, and justice. Shortly, we shall light the destruction flame, a powerful gesture that will mark our continued march towards a secure and gun-free society. Let this moment inspire us all to remain vigilant, united, and unwavering in the pursuit of lasting peace.

**I thank you.**

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