



KIRIBATI

Views on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons



KIRIBATI VISION 20 (KV20)

The Kiribati Government recently released an ambitious 20 year vision with Peace and Security as one of the 4 pillars of this KV20



PILLAR 3 – PEACE AND SECURITY (KV 20)

- **COMMITMENT:**
 - **The government is committed to improve security in order to provide citizens with a more secure living and working environment.**
 - **The vision will implement measures to create a safer Kiribati through provision of timely and quality policing services to mediate and reduce overall crime rate in Kiribati.**
 - **The government will also implement measures to strengthen adaptive capacity and resilience of its people against calamities associated with climate change.**
 - **These measures will aim at making Kiribati a secure and a peaceful nation in the Pacific.**



PILLAR 3 – PEACE AND SECURITY (KV 20)

- **Underpinning Laws:**
 - **Constitution**
 - **Fisheries Act/Customs Act/Immigration Ordinance**
 - **Environment Act**
 - **Police Service Act/Police Powers Act**
 - **Leadership Code**
 - **Penal Code**
 - **Te Rau n Te Mwenga Act...(FAMILY PEACE ACT) etc....**
 - **Prisons Ordinance**
 - **Arms and Ammunition Act**



PILLAR 3 – PEACE AND SECURITY (KV 20)

- **CHALLENGES:**
 - **THE KIRIBATI GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES THAT DESPITE OUR ISOLATION, WE ARE NOT IMMUNE TO SECURITY CHALLENGES.**
 - **THE GOVERNMENT THEREFORE UNDER THE KV20 WISHES TO HAVE A NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY AND FRAMEWORK ESTABLISHED**
 - **THE STRATEGY WILL LOOK AT HARMONISING AGENCIES TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCIES AND PUT AN END TO SILOS**
 - **THE KIRIBATI GOVERNMENT ALSO ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE VASTNESS OF OUR OCEAN POSES AN AREA THAT CAN BE EXPLOITED FOR ILLICIT TRADE INCLUDING OF SMALL ARMS ETC.**



PILLAR 3 – PEACE AND SECURITY (KV 20)

- **CHALLENGES:**
 - **Border and Maritime**
 - Increase no. of visit to our shores and EEZ.
 - Increase in trade;
 - Increase in vessels/aircrafts.
 - **Transnational Crimes**
 - Cyber crimes
 - Money Laundering
 - Human Trafficking
 - Terrorism



PILLAR 3 – PEACE AND SECURITY (KV 20)

- CHALLENGES:
 - **National Crimes**
 - Domestic Violence
 - Road Accidents
 - White Collar Crimes
 - **Climate Change**
 - Sea Level Rise
 - Natural Disasters
 - **Land Issues**
 - Squatters
 - Fraud



PILLAR 3 – PEACE AND SECURITY (KV 20)

- **CHALLENGES:**
 - **Policies**
 - Each institution has its own – (Isolation Culture)
 - No national policy – (Security Advisory Institution)
 - **Legal Framework**
 - Out dated laws
 - New Laws v. New Initiatives – (Border Force-National Crime Agency)
 - **Institutional Strengthening/Capacity Building**
 - Old institution v. New Institutions (Specialized)(Crime Labs)
 - Limited Man power/professional training-(Law Enforcement Academy)



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ARMS AND AMMUNITION ORDINANCE

- Under the Arms and Ammunition Ordinance the Kiribati Police Service only allows the importing and exporting of arms to those who have been granted with a licence. The license can only be granted to the dealer based on the approval of the Commissioner of Police.
- It is also clearly stipulated under the Arms and Ammunition Ordinance the Kiribati Police Service can only allow people to possess guns and pistol after having complied with the criteria as lay out in the Ordinance. The issuance of a license again can be given based on the approval of the Commissioner of Police.



ARMS AND AMMUNITION ORDINANCE

- The Illicit of Trade on Small Arms and Light weapons are not allowed to exist and employed within the Kiribati region. It is for a reason that could be harmful and problematic to the people of Kiribati. However, the Illicit of trade on arms and light weapons can be seen possible and viable hence to the isolation of islands and vast Ocean size (EEZ). Kiribati can be seen as a transitional point of exchange on illegal fire arms through yacht and merchant ships.
- The Kiribati patrol boat is normally used to monitor the transshipment on Illegal activities being carried out in the high seas or open waters. All Police Officers on the outer islands are also responsible to seize fire arms from yachtsmen during their inspection and to release them before they leave the country.



ARMS AND AMMUNITION ORDINANCE

- The Kiribati Police Service possesses a register retaining the names of persons who own fire arms in the country. There are two (2) persons who have possessed guns and it is the duty of the owners to return their guns to the police officers for renewal on their license on every 31st of December. IF they fail they are liable to a fine of \$100.00 and 6 months imprisonment.



WAYS FORWARD

- KIRIBATI IS COMMITTED TO REVIEWING CONCERNED LEGISLATION TO ENSURE THAT ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS DOES NOT EXIST IN KIRIBATI
- STRENGTHEN THE ENFORCEMENT OF SUCH LEGISLATIONS
- KIRIBATI AS PER ITS DESIRE TO ENSURE THAT KIRIBATI CONTINUES TO BE A PEACEFUL AND SECURE NATION, WILL THOROUGHLY UNDERTAKE INTERNAL DISCUSSIONS THAT WILL LEAD TO A NATIONAL POSITION THAT CAN DETERMINE WAY FORWARD IN TERMS OF THE CONVENTION
- NEVERTHELESS KIRIBATI DOES NOT SUPPORT AND CONDEMNS ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS.



THANK YOU

• **Kam Rabwa**