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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE KILLINGS OF KENYAN  
TURKANAS BY DASENACH/MERILLE TRIBESMEN OF ETHIOPIA ON  
2<sup>ND</sup> MAY, 2011**

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** I wish to issue a Ministerial Statement on the killings of Kenyan Turkanas by Dasenach/Merille tribesmen of Ethiopia on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2011.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2011 at around 7.00am in the morning, four Dasenach/Merille tribesmen from Ethiopia ambushed a group of Turkana fishermen in the lake, killing one respected fisher folk's leader and injuring another in Turkana North District.

In the commotion that ensued unknown Turkana person(s) in quick retaliation, shot dead four (4) Dasenach/Merille community members who were peacefully co-existing with the Turkanas at Tondonyang Catholic Church compound (Kijiji).

It is suspected that some members of the Dasenach/Merille community escaped from the Turkana village and ran towards the Ethiopian direction for their safety. On their way to Ethiopia, it is alleged that they met a group of Dasenach/Merille who were escorting a group of Turkana community members who had gone to Siees village, a Dasenach/Merille village to purchase food on the Kenyan side of the Kenya/Ethiopia border.

Word reached them that their colleagues had been killed by Turkanas at the Tondonyang Mission compound. They turned against the Turkanas they were escorting and killed 9 men and 10 women bringing the total to 20

Turkanas killed. Two men were also injured, but they were later taken to hospital, treated and discharged.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** the District Security Intelligence Committee (DSIC) immediately evacuated forty three (43) Turkanas from the Dasenach villages while 14 Dasenach community members were similarly evacuated from Turkana villages to stop the spiral of killings.

The Provincial Security Intelligence Committee (PSIC) flew to the scene on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2011 together with the area MP in a bid to have a joint border meeting with their counterparts from Ethiopia. The meetings are still going on.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,** to temporarily check interaction of the two communities in the market, the Ministry of Special Programme has distributed 100 bags of rice, 100 cartons of vegetable oil and a 100 bags of beans as a lasting solution is being sought. The distribution of relief food will continue on a regular basis to deter the Turkana from moving to the Ethiopian side in search of food.

The bodies of the dead persons were disposed off at Tondonyang Catholic Church Cemetery.

In the meantime, the Government is relocating the GSU and AP camps at Tondonyang to the actual border point, fourteen (14) kilometers away to counter any revenge attacks between the warring communities.

The Government has also initiated peace and reconciliation meetings in Kenya and between Kenyans and Ethiopians living on the border for a lasting solution.

*Cantakel*

**Further, Mr. Speaker Sir,** the Government has ~~written a protest note to~~ the Ethiopian Government on the killings.

*Q2* Meanwhile, a Joint Border Commissioners meeting will be held soon to put in place strategies to ensure the two communities live in peace.

It is important that the Dasenach and the Turkana who live alongside the border respect the boundary between Kenya and Ethiopia.

Finally, **Mr. Speaker Sir,** we appeal for calm and urge the two communities to avoid the temptation to revenge.



**MINISTER OF STATE FOR PROVINCIAL  
ADMINISTRATION & INTERNAL SECURITY**

**10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2011**