



**TALKING POINTS BY MR. KIPKOSGEI
BARMAO MBS S/ACP, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
OPERATIONS KENYAN POLICE DURING THE
OPENING OF A TRAINING SESSION ON
MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSIONS AT UNEP
HEADQUARTERS GIGIRI ON THE 27TH OF
MARCH 2009.**

I'm glad to be here this morning to join you in this important function. The importance of this gathering is underscored by the fact that motor vehicle emissions have been identified as a significant contributor to air pollution and environmental damage. Air pollution and environmental damage portends a great risk to the survival of all organisms including the human being and the ecosystems that support life on this planet. This is why motor vehicle emission is not only a challenge to law enforcement today, but also a duty the current generation must perform to ensure the survival of humanity.

In Kenya this responsibility is vested on the Motor Vehicle Inspection Unit. The department was established in the early 1960s with a mandate to ensure that all vehicles on Kenyan roads comply with the safety and mechanical specifications stipulated by the law and various government regulations. It is the arm of government currently charged with the responsibility of enforcing motor vehicle emissions standards.

Apart from the current global pressure for governments to urgently form enforceable emission control standards, it is incumbent upon us to look at this phenomenon in a more present context of the consequences we are already experiencing like prolonged drought, attributed to the depletion of the ozone layer and the resultant global warming. Whereas in Kenya it has not been previously recognized as an urgent matter, the necessity of facing this problem now and not later can be illustrated when one considers a few facts.

Between the year 2000 and 2008, the number of vehicles on Kenya roads increased from 591,154 to 1,016,766. This means that the degree of emissions has doubled and can be

expected to double again by the year 2015. I want to believe that nobody can dispute that the air in Nairobi today is much more polluted than it was in 2000, if you imagine that the pollution will have doubled in 2015, and then our future is under a real threat.

Bearing in mind that the increase in motor vehicles is matched by an increase of the urban population especially in the major cities of Nairobi, Mombasa and Kisumu one can therefore infer the greater consequences to the quality of life.

One aspect that readily comes to mind is health: if motor vehicle emissions are not checked, the attendant consequences like respiratory infection will increase meaning that families and the government must deal with a bigger public health budget at the expense of other services required by the expanding population.

It is from this background that in recent years concern about exhaust emissions from motor vehicles has been increasing all over the world. That is why this training session is an important step towards making our country keep in step with the rest of the world. We cannot afford to be left behind as a region mainly because air pollution knows no borders and environmental degradation in one part of the world adversely affects the environment in other parts of the world.

This morning the Commissioner of Police would like to assure the gathering that Kenya Police realizes the danger of motor vehicle emissions beyond the required standards. It is a fact that like all other professions, law enforcement becomes much more effective when all the players have a comprehensive understanding of the implication of failure to observe a particular law.

That is why we appreciate this training and encourage other organizations to offer more training opportunities to our personnel in this and other emerging concerns. Ignorance has been shown to be a very expensive undertaking and we take this opportunity to thank the organizers of this training for the initiative.

For the training participants, the Commissioner of Police hopes that the knowledge you acquire shall produce sustainable results by taking the lead in mobilizing others to appreciate the need to observe the proper emission standards.

It is my sincere belief that the training will build the capacity of the participants to better enforce the existing traffic regulation and create a better and healthy environment for all.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen, let me wish you all a good and fruitful day.

Mr. Kipkosgei Barmao MBS S/ACP
For: Commissioner of Police
March 27th, 2009.