

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
OFFICIAL REPORT**

**Tuesday, 11th November, 2008**

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

*(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)*

**PRAYERS**

**QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE**

**ARREST OF KENYAN FISHERMEN BY  
UGANDAN SECURITY FORCES**

**Mr. Mhanda:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security the following Question by Private Notice:

(a) Could the Minister confirm that the Ugandan security forces have continuously been harassing Kenyan fishermen near Migingo Island, the latest being a few weeks ago, and state what immediate steps he has taken?

(b) Why do Kenyan security forces not have a base on the island, while Uganda has one?

(c) Could the Government also consider establishing a new Kenya Navy base in Lake Victoria to protect the country's territorial waters?

(d) What concrete steps is the Government taking to ensure that Kenyan fishermen are protected from arbitrary arrest and continuous harassment by the Ugandan security team around Migingo Island?

**The Assistant Minister, Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security (Mr. Upadig):**

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Yes, I am aware that Uganda's security forces have, on a number of occasions, arrested Kenyans in Lake Victoria. The latest incident being on 26th October, 2008, when 15 Kenyan fishermen were arrested and taken to Bugiri District of Uganda.

In response, the Government dispatched a high level delegation to Kampala led by the Minister for Fisheries Development who was accompanied by the PC, Nyarua, among other senior Government officials to discuss the matter among other issues of mutual benefit to the two sister states. It is hoped that a lasting solution will be found once the meeting is over.

(b) The Government is concerned about the presence of Ugandan security forces in Migingo Island and is handling the matter through diplomatic channels.

(c) Currently, the Government does not have plans to establish a navy base in Lake Victoria because all amicable mechanisms of solving the problem have not been exhausted.

(d) The Government has taken concrete steps to protect the Kenyan fishermen. Some of these steps include the following:

1. Beach management committees have been set up. The committees regulate fishing activities in both Kenya and Uganda hence promoting peaceful co-existence.

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