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Managing Editor

The Daily Nation Newspaper

**RIGHT OF RESPONSE: USE OF BRUTE FORCE SOILING POLICE IMAGE, DAILY NATION,
30TH NOVEMBER 2017**

Our attention is drawn to an article on your editorial page of The *Daily Nation* of 30th November 2017 titled: '**Use of brute force soiling Police image, Daily Nation**' by the **Editor**.

In as much as the spirit of the editorial is pro reforms in the National Police Service, the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) does not agree with the conclusion inferred that police oversight bodies, particularly IPOA have become toothless and purveyors of announcing investigation initiations and '**doing practically nothing**' afterwards.

IPOA would like to correct the perception created by this allegation. As you may recall, through a press statement sent to your Media House, IPOA announced the launch of investigations into election related incidents of alleged police brutality and killings. Afterwards, the Authority released an accountability statement which included findings of some of those investigations. In baby Samantha Pendo's case, after investigations, the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) concurred with IPOA's recommendations and directed that the case be disposed of by way of a public inquest. He further directed for the stern disciplinary action against the operation commander and several of the police officers in the operation. For minor Stephany Moraa, the DPP concurred with IPOA and directed that the matter be disposed of by way of a public inquest.

For the case of Master Geoffrey Mutinda, on learning of the incident, IPOA immediately dispatched its Rapid Response Unit to the scene on Tuesday, 28th 2017 to initiate preliminary investigations. This case together with all other cases of alleged police brutality have been prioritised for investigations.

To negate perceptions created by your article, it is important for us to state that since inception, IPOA has completed **674** investigations and is currently conducting **292** active Investigations with a further **53** cases in court today. To date, **1** case has been successfully convicted and **3** others concluded before court awaiting judgement. The Authority also recently launched the Electronic Content Management System (**ECM**) which will ensure the most efficient approach to investigations completion through real-time tracking and management. IPOA has also opened offices in Garissa, Kisumu and Mombasa to enable grassroots presence and quicker response to investigation of cases.

IPOA has through investigations held to account numerous culpable police officers and caused them to face the consequences of their misconduct through the judicial system and through the internal police disciplinary mechanisms of the police. This endeavour and commitment is made because the Authority recognises the task placed upon it as an important vehicle in the restoration of legitimacy and the building of professional capacity in the National Police Service, but more importantly the realisation of the envisioned recommendations contained in the National Task Force on Police Reforms report that caused the establishment of IPOA.

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