

# UK backs Terrorism Bill



British High Commissioner Rob Macaire said there was need to incorporate different bodies in the fight against terrorism, not only in Kenya but in the world. Photo/FILE

By NATION CORRESPONDENT  
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Kenya has been urged to hasten the establishment of laws that will help in the war against terrorism.

The call came from British High Commissioner Rob Macaire who said MPs should pass the Terrorism Bill which they had rejected in the past.

Mr Macaire said there was need to incorporate different bodies in the fight against terrorism, not only in Kenya but in the world.

“Civil societies and some members of Parliament rejected the Bill because they felt it was targeting individuals.

“We are therefore urging those mandated to formulate and implement the Bill to ensure that it passes once it is brought to Parliament again,” said the envoy.

Mr Macaire, who was addressing a workshop organised by the Kenya Community Support Centre at Reef Hotel in Mombasa, said the community should be involved in fighting radicalism and violence in the country.

He blamed the gap between security agents and the citizens as the major contributor to the increasing cases of terrorism in Kenya.

“Members of the community have information about terrorism activities since terrorists live among them.

“There is need to bridge the gap between the police and the citizens if we are to succeed in dealing with terrorism.”

The high commissioner said the UK was committed to dealing with insecurity in Kenya.

“We shall support police reforms through grants and conducting joint training with the UK police.”

### **Boost for war against piracy**

Britain has given Sh810 million to be spent on the war against piracy in the Indian Ocean.

The money will also be used to increase prison capacity in Somalia and across the Indian Ocean region, British foreign secretary William Hague says in a press release.

“This will help to ensure that suspects are prosecuted and those found guilty of piracy are imprisoned.

“It will also help to ensure that prison accommodation is in line with international standards and that prosecutions are in full compliance with due process and the rule of law,” Mr Hague said.

The statement announced that £600,000 (Sh81 million) will be used to enhance optical imagery equipment for the Seychelles Coastguard.

This would allow surveillance aircraft to take high quality video and photographs, thereby help capture the pirates and provide valuable evidence in court cases.

The fuel tanks of the aircraft will also be upgraded to enable them to fly longer distances.

The Somali pirates have in the recent past become sophisticated and travel as far as the Southern Red Sea, where they carry out attacks.