

The British government has urged Kenya to put in place mechanisms that would ensure proper legislation if the terrorism bill is implemented.

British High Commissioner Rob Macaire said all stakeholders should unite and consolidate a common legislation, which would not be seen to target people from certain communities.

Speaking in Mombasa during the official opening of a community engagement with the police, where the UK security forces are training their Kenyan counterparts on security concerns, Macaire said his government was committed to assist in police reforms. "We have put huge efforts in our government and lots of attention has been placed on Kenya to ensure police reforms," he said. Macaire noted that putting in place the right legislation required consensus amongst stakeholders.



The envoy said insecurity has been a major challenge in Kenya and officers from his country would help the Kenyan police bridge the gap between them and the community.

The function was organised by the Kenya Community Support Centre and attended by senior police chiefs from the Coast and community policing officials.

He said, "We have on several occasions heard that the human rights groups have rejected the terrorism bill in Kenya saying it is targeting a particular community or religion. That should not be the case." "Introduction of the law shouldn't be seen as a target that is set to eliminate any community," he said.

He said there was need for serious government efforts to tackle crime and other challenges, and encouraged Kenyans to engage in the security debate.

He also expressed concern over extrajudicial killings, saying the issue should be investigated as it was not reflecting well on the efforts in police reforms.

Macaire said the police need to clear their reputation over the claims and if there is any truth, the government should act. Kecosce executive director Philis Muema said the training would promote public safety as a human right. "We expect to increase awareness amongst the police officers about the factors and drivers of the violent extremism and promote effective engagement with the communities," she said.