



PRESS RELEASE
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DESPATCH FROM CABINET

CABINET CONVENED today under the stewardship of **His Excellency the President**, at State House, Nairobi.

THE MEETING was convened to assess the evolving national situation on various facets of our national life and to consider proposed policy interventions **following the rejection of the Finance Bill, 2024** and the subsequent civil unrest in Nairobi and several other towns. As a result of the unrest, lives were lost, property worth billions of shillings destroyed or looted, and an attempt was made to burn down the Parliament Buildings.

CABINET COMMISERATED with Kenyans who lost their lives during the protests, **extended their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families**, and conveyed well wishes for quick recovery to all those recuperating from various injuries.

THE MEETING noted that what had legitimately begun as a democratic expression of disapproval of the Finance Bill, 2024, **through the exercise of the right to assemble, demonstrate, picket, and present petitions to authorities, was hijacked** by opportunistic political operatives and criminal gangs. In that regard, **Cabinet called for accountability and action against those who committed heinous crimes** such as arson, looting and robbery; stating that such atrocities must not go unpunished.

ON THE overall state of national security, Cabinet noted that the **situation had normalized in all parts of the country** and **security agencies remain on alert to intercept and thwart harm to the public**. Cabinet commended all law enforcement officers for their high sense of civic duty as the **golden spear of our safety and our shield against those**



who wish to harm our nation and compromise our sovereignty. Additionally, it was noted that claims of unlawful conduct by some law enforcement officers would be investigated and dealt with in accordance with the law.

AS PART of state interventions in response to the Kenyan youth **calls for greater economic inclusion and accountability** in management of public affairs, Cabinet considered a wide range of proposals aimed at **reducing the FY 2024/25 budget by Ksh. 346 billion**, being the revenue that was expected from the Finance Bill, 2024.

THE ONGOING budget rationalization and strengthening of the arc of governance are in keeping with the commitment made by His Excellency the President to the nation, to ensure that **the sacrifices made by all Kenyans are met with discipline** across all sectors of public service. **The full array of state interventions will be announced to the nation in due course.**

CABINET WAS apprised on the effects of the protests on various other facets of our national fabric including education, healthcare and tourism. The meeting noted that the tourism sector had remained resilient and that the country was on course to setting **a record high number of tourist arrivals in the year 2024**, buoyed by the nation's **Visa-Free Regime.**

TO ACCELERATE the gains achieved in the **turnaround of the nation's tourism sector**-a key foreign exchange earner, and to **solidify Nairobi's position as an aviation hub**, Cabinet considered and approved **Bilateral Air Services Agreements** between Kenya and the following countries: Iceland, The Dominican Republic, Algeria, Poland and Eswatini, among others.

IN KEEPING with the Administration's commitment to enhance access to foreign markets, Cabinet considered and approved the **Kenya-United Arab Emirates (UAE) Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.** Once the treaty is ratified by Parliament, Kenyan products including tea, meat, fruits, vegetables, and cut-flowers will have preferential market access to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).



THE MEETING also considered and approved the implementation of the **Kenya Urban Improvement Project in the Nairobi Metropolitan Area**. The program will include the **phased upgrade of the 163km Nairobi Commuter Rail**. The first phase of the Programme will encompass improving the 58km commuter rail between Nairobi Central Railway Station and Thika. The project will also involve acquiring new locomotives and enhancing non-motorised transport infrastructure, as well as feeder roads along the **Nairobi Commuter Rail network**.

IN KEEPING with the Administration's commitment to strengthen devolution, Cabinet considered and approved the **Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024**. These amendments are designed to implement **Article 187 of the Constitution**, providing a framework for the financial management of functions transferred between the two levels of government.

IN RECOGNITION of the promise of the Kenyan youth as the catalyst for our national renaissance, Cabinet approved the hosting of the **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Youth Symposium** in September 2024. This continental gala seeks to empower youth in entrepreneurship and innovation, enabling them to play an **active role in shaping Africa's economic landscape**.

CABINET IS scheduled to join **His Excellency the President** tomorrow Friday, 5th July 2024, as the Head of State and Government hosts his **inaugural X - Space Conversation** with the youth of Kenya. All Kenyans are welcome to contribute to this dialogue as part of our collective effort to foster national renewal and **create a better Kenya for all**.

CABINET OFFICE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Thursday, 4th July, 2024