

## AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

### Kenya Monthly Briefing February 2024

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#### Kenya Summary 13 February 2024

*Prime cabinet secretary (CS) and foreign and diaspora affairs CS Musalia Mudavadi visits China between 24 and 27 January to reconfirm China as one of Kenya's key partners following unsure footing during President William Ruto's (2022-present) first year in office. Ruto, joined by several top cabinet ministers, travels to Japan on 6 February to discuss investment opportunities. The visit sees Kenya garner over \$2 billion in funding for renewable energy projects, discussions on a vehicle manufacturing plant with Japan's Toyota Tsusho Corporation and a \$500m Samurai bond. Kenya and the United States (US) consolidate their security cooperation with the United States (US) with a series of high-level meetings over the past month.*

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#### Kenya updates its China policy

Prime cabinet secretary (CS) and foreign and diaspora affairs CS **Musalia Mudavadi** embarked on a three-day official visit to **China** between 24 and 27 January to follow up on key discussions stemming from President **William Ruto's** (2022-present) October 2023 trip for the third **Belt and Road Forum**.<sup>1</sup> Mudavadi's trip is considered somewhat of a reparative mission for **Nairobi** following Ruto's anti-China platform in the 2023 presidential elections. During his campaign, Ruto pledged to deport Chinese nationals working illegally in the country and blamed Kenya's burgeoning debt on Chinese-run infrastructure projects.<sup>2</sup> However, since taking office Ruto changed his stance and has continued to expand cooperation and tout China as one of Kenya's most important partners.<sup>3</sup>

During his visit, Mudavadi held talks with his Chinese counterpart **Wang Yi** and, in a press conference, emphasised that China was an "extremely important partner" to Kenya and, due to its pivotal role in regional and global issues "we have no option but to really engage with China at the highest level and very very seriously."<sup>4</sup> The foreign minister reiterated that Kenya would continue to "unswervingly adhere" to the **One-China Principle** and aligned with China on issues surrounding **Taiwan** and human rights.<sup>5</sup> Since Taiwan's presidential elections last month, many countries have re-endorsed their support for the one-China policy, which to a degree, signals China's rising concern over deteriorating relations exacerbated by a recent increase in Taiwan-**United States (US)** engagements.<sup>6</sup>

Back in Kenya, Mudavadi announced that a policy refresh on China was "long overdue" and that Kenya should have a clear China policy committed in writing from which to base ongoing bilateral cooperation.<sup>7</sup> Kenya has never before penned a China policy and it is unclear what the focal points will be.

Experts on China's role in **Africa** at the **China-Global South Project (CGSP)** recommended that the writing committee source from the local talent pool -for over 40 years China has provided Kenyan students with scholarship opportunities as well as technical and vocational training.<sup>8</sup> The utilisation of these former students' language, knowledge, and experience would provide the government with valuable insight, boost civil engagement, and increase job opportunities. Crafting this document will

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<sup>1</sup> [The Star](#), 24 Jan 2024

<sup>2</sup> [Reuters](#), 20 Jul 2022

<sup>3</sup> [VOA News](#), 29 Sep 2022

<sup>4</sup> [Kenya Digital News](#), 26 Jan 2024

<sup>5</sup> [The East African](#), 25 Jan 2024

<sup>6</sup> [Council on Foreign Relations](#), 8 Feb 2024

<sup>7</sup> [China Global South Project](#), 1 Feb 2024

<sup>8</sup> [The Star](#), 20 Nov 2023

also largely rely on Kenya's new ambassador to China **Willy Bett** who presented his credentials to President **Xi Jinping** (2013-current) on 30 January.<sup>9</sup> Bett was formerly the high commissioner to **India** (2018-2023) and was the agriculture, livestock, and fisheries CS (2015-2018). Bett was also managing director of the **Kenya Seed Company** and has held high-level marketing and finance positions throughout his career, meaning he will likely be expected to increase Kenyan exports to China amid a trade deficit of \$3.62 billion.<sup>10</sup> Although he does not have extensive diplomatic experience, he also has close ties to Ruto, who stood as Bett's best man at his 2018 wedding. Having one of Ruto's 'right-hand' men in Beijing is also an important symbol of respect for China.<sup>11,12</sup>

Many of China's **Belt and Road Infrastructure (BRI)** projects in Kenya such as the **Nairobi Expressway** or the **Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway (SGR)** have been criticised as not earning sufficient returns to service the debt accrued by the projects. Kenya owes an estimated \$6.3 billion to China, not inclusive of debt servicing charges and interest.<sup>13</sup> The details of the specific loan conditions for these projects are unknown but many of China's loans to Kenya and other African countries are 'non-concession' loans provided through such institutions as the **Exim Bank of China**. As such the debts cannot be forgiven but are often renegotiated to extend their terms and payments.<sup>14</sup>

The **Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA)** announced on 6 February that Exim Bank had granted it a loan to upgrade Nairobi's traffic management. The loan will fund a project estimated at Ksh 9 billion (\$61m) to install traffic management systems at 25 junctions throughout the city, six vehicle detection systems and over 20 CCTV cameras.<sup>15</sup> The tender for contractors is open to Chinese companies only illustrating an often criticised aspect of Chinese investment in Kenya - both the financier and contractor for projects are Chinese companies which often employ Chinese labourers, therefore reducing the local involvement and benefits for Kenyan businesses.<sup>16</sup>

China is also involved in the **Lamu Port, South Sudan, Ethiopia Transport Corridor (LAPSSET)** project and on 9 February, the **Kenya Defence Forces (KDF)** hosted the Chinese Ambassador to Kenya **Zhou Pingjian** on a site visit where he expressed satisfaction with infrastructural progress and security measures.<sup>17</sup>

### As Ruto and top cabinet ministers woo Japanese investors

Ruto secured more than \$2 billion in financial commitments from investors during his 6 to 9 February visit to **Tokyo (Japan)** targeted at funding infrastructure and renewable energy projects throughout Kenya.<sup>18</sup> Ruto was accompanied by his wife **Rachel Ruto**, Mudavadi, roads and transport CS **Kipchumba Murukomen**, investments, trade & industry CS **Rebecca Miano**, and energy and petroleum CS **Davis Chirchir**.<sup>19</sup> During the official visit, Ruto met with **Emperor Naruhito** and **Empress Masako**, Prime Minister **Fumio Kishida** (2021-present) and participated in the Kenya-Japan Business Forum. This trip follows up on Kishida's May 2023 visit to Kenya during which the leaders discussed strengthening trade relations.<sup>20</sup>

Following talks with Kishida, Ruto witnessed the signing of the **Framework Agreement for Collaboration between Kenya and Toyota Tsusho Corporation**. The agreement aims to collaborate with the Kenyan government to develop the country's green energy resources in the pursuit of achieving Kenya's 2030 target of 100% reliance on renewable energy. The agreement

<sup>9</sup> [The Star](#), 31 Jan 2024

<sup>10</sup> [The Brief](#), 5 Oct 2023

<sup>11</sup> [Mpasho](#), 26 April 2018

<sup>12</sup> [ANI](#), 14 Apr 2023

<sup>13</sup> [Economic Observatory](#), 20 Dec 2023

<sup>14</sup> [Africa Defense Forum](#), 7 Nov 2023

<sup>15</sup> [Kenyans](#), 6 Feb 2024

<sup>16</sup> [Business Daily](#), 7 Feb 2024

<sup>17</sup> [Ministry of Defense](#), 9 Feb 2024

<sup>18</sup> [Semafor](#), 9 Feb 2024

<sup>19</sup> [Toyota Tsusho](#), 7 Feb 2024

<sup>20</sup> [Africa News](#), 3 May 2023

contained several financial agreements including Ksh15 billion (\$94m) for the **Meru Wind Farm** energy project, Ksh8 billion (\$50.2m) for **Isiolo Solar Energy**, an initial investment of Ksh800m (\$5m) for **Thika Kenya Vehicle Manufacturers (KVM)**, and Ksh75 billion (\$470.22m) for the **Menengai Geothermal Plant**.<sup>21</sup> The Kenyan delegation encouraged Toyota to consider establishing a vehicle manufacturing plant in Kenya to tap into the growing demand for its products. A plant, Ruto said, would reduce the amount of used vehicles imported in addition to creating local employment opportunities.<sup>22</sup>

The **Kenyan Revenue Authority (KRA)** shows that trade between Kenya and Japan resulted in KSh18.7 billion (\$116.7m) in revenue in 2023.<sup>23</sup> Japan dominates Kenya's commercial and private used car market, accounting for 94.3% of the 62,495 vehicles exported to Kenya from June 2022 to June 2023.<sup>24</sup> However, over the past three years, shipments have slowed due to several factors such as the **Covid-19** pandemic, Kenyan shilling depreciation, and Ruto's **2023 Finance Act** which increased the import duty on used cars from 25% to 35%.<sup>25</sup>

During the Kenya-Japan Business Forum on 8 February, Ruto encouraged investment in Kenya by promoting the benefits of having access not only to the Kenyan market but also to the **East African Community (EAC)** and the wider African market enabled through the **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)** agreement.<sup>26</sup> Japan's economy, trade, and industry vice minister **Nobuhiro Yoshida** told forum participants that Kenya's business environment was encouraging and "*Kenya's legal environment supports business, and we intend to leverage on it.*"<sup>27</sup> Japan's foreign affairs minister **Kiyoto Tsuji** added that Japan is eager to enhance its partnership with Kenya and transfer skills to Kenyans.<sup>28</sup>

Kenya's national treasury and Japan's official export credit agency, **Nippon Export & Investment Insurance (NEXI)** also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for a **Samurai bond** worth \$500m. A Samurai bond is a Yen-denominated bond issued in Tokyo by a non-Japanese company and subject to Japanese regulations. National treasury said the sale of the Samurai bond would come in two phases of \$250m each and proceeds would be used to promote electric vehicles and enhance energy efficiency in Kenya's transmission network during the 2024/25 financial year.<sup>29</sup> The Japanese bond provides Kenya with an alternate path towards settling its \$2 billion Eurobond and alleviates some risk associated with it. Japanese media reported about the Kenyan investments as a way to counter "*China's growing influence*" and help alleviate the country's debt situation which was exacerbated by Chinese loans.<sup>30</sup> China regards Japan's involvement on the continent as an attempt to "*draw Africa away from China and Russia into the G7 camp.*"<sup>31</sup>

Although both competitors have been major players in Kenyan development, China has played a bigger role in funding mega infrastructural projects such as the SGR while Japanese development focused on smaller projects such as building schools, hospitals and core infrastructure.<sup>32</sup> However, the yields from Ruto's Tokyo investment drive signal a strong turn towards Japan for sustainable development.

## Kenya and US boost security cooperation

<sup>21</sup> [William Samoei Ruto](#), X, 7 Feb 2024

<sup>22</sup> [The East African](#), 8 Feb 2024

<sup>23</sup> [Business Insider](#), 26 Nov 2023

<sup>24</sup> [The East African](#), 16 Aug 2023

<sup>25</sup> [Business Daily](#), 1 Sep 2023

<sup>26</sup> [Citizen Digital](#), 8 Jan 2024

<sup>27</sup> [Citizen Digital](#), 8 Jan 2024

<sup>28</sup> [Citizen Digital](#), 8 Jan 2024

<sup>29</sup> [The National Treasury & Economic Planning](#), X, 8 Feb 2024

<sup>30</sup> [The Japan News](#), 9 Feb 2024

<sup>31</sup> [China Daily](#), 7 May 2023

<sup>32</sup> [Foreign Brief](#), 6 Feb 2024

Over the past month, Kenya and the US expanded their security cooperation over a series of high-level meetings carried out across both continents. **Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)** director **William Burns** met with **Ruto** at **State House** (Nairobi) on 15 January, followed by a 22 January strategic visit by **Michael Langley**, head of **US Africa Command (AFRICOM)**, to Kenya.<sup>33</sup> Although the content of their meetings was not disclosed the resurgence of **Yemeni Houthi** attacks on the **Red Sea** was likely discussed in addition to regional security issues. Mudavadi also met with US secretary of state **Antony Blinken** in **Washington DC** (US) on 1 February where the latter acknowledged Kenya as a “*key democratic partner*” and recognised Kenya’s role in promoting peace and security in the East African region.<sup>34</sup>

In two separate meetings in Washington on 7 February, Kenyan defence CS **Aden Bare Duale** met with acting deputy secretary of state and undersecretary for political affairs **Victoria Nuland** and US secretary of defence **Lloyd Austin III**. Nuland reaffirmed the countries’ strong bilateral ties, and ongoing collaboration on counterterrorism, and reiterated US commitment to the **Multinational Security Support (MSS)** mission to **Haiti**.<sup>35</sup> In October 2023 the **United Nations (UN)** endorsed the Kenyan-led mission to deploy 1000 police officers to restore law and order to the **Caribbean** Island nation (see *ARC Briefing Kenya Oct 2023*). However, on 26 January the Kenyan high court blocked the deployment ruling that without an existing bilateral arrangement between Kenya and Haiti, it would be unconstitutional.<sup>36</sup> Kenyan lawyer and politician **Ekuru Aukot** considered the verdict a win and argued that Kenya cannot spare officers amid ongoing and unresolved domestic security challenges.<sup>37</sup> He further suggested that Ruto was using the MSS to enhance his international image and seek favour with the US at the expense of domestic stability.<sup>38</sup> However, Ruto intends to push ahead with the deployment and paperwork is underway to formalise a bilateral agreement as necessitated by the court.<sup>39</sup>

During their meeting, Austin commended Kenya’s role as a major security contributor to the **African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS)** and recognised Kenya’s participation in **Operation Prosperity Guardian**, a US-spearheaded international maritime task force launched in December 2023 in response to Houthi attacks against vessels in the Red Sea.<sup>40,41</sup> Duale stated that Nairobi would continue siding with the US when it comes to counter-terrorism and marine navigation safety.<sup>42</sup> Kenya is the only country in the **Horn of Africa** to sway from a position of neutrality when it comes to the **Arab** crisis as the Houthi attacks stand to negatively affect shipping to and from Kenya’s **Mombasa Port** and it is in Kenya’s economic interest to end the conflict<sup>43</sup>

Kenya has also sided with the US when it comes to the **Russia-Ukraine** war and is a member of the **Ukraine Defense Contact Group**.<sup>44</sup> Seemingly aware of this, on 10 February Russian ambassador to Kenya **Dmitry Maksimychev** stated that Kenya remained high priority to Russia and “*Russia is ready to cooperate with Kenya in every field that is of interest to the Kenyans themselves.*”<sup>45</sup>

Due in part to Ruto’s international campaign to promote Kenya as a beacon of stability in the East African and Horn of Africa region, the country should be in a good position to leverage its geopolitical situation in pursuit of economic benefits. Kenya’s recent security meetings also coincided with renewed trade talks and Mudavadi also met with **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**

<sup>33</sup> [Daily Nation](#), 21 Jan 2024

<sup>34</sup> [United States Department of State](#), 1 Feb 2024

<sup>35</sup> [United States Department of State](#), 7 Feb 2024

<sup>36</sup> [Reuters](#), 26 Jan 2024

<sup>37</sup> [BBC](#), 26 Jan 2024

<sup>38</sup> [BBC](#), 26 Jan 2024

<sup>39</sup> [Reuters](#), 30 Jan 2024

<sup>40</sup> [Anadolu Agency](#), 4 Oct 2023

<sup>41</sup> [United States Department of Defense](#), 7 Feb 2024

<sup>42</sup> [The East African](#), 10 Feb 2023

<sup>43</sup> [Anadolu Agency](#), 1 Feb 2024

<sup>44</sup> [Kenyans](#), 11 Feb 2024

<sup>45</sup> [Kenyans](#), 11 Feb 2024

administrator **Samantha Power** and **Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)** deputy CEO **Chidi Blyden** with whom he discussed expediting the implementation of a \$60m MCC grant-funded programme to improve urban connectivity.<sup>46</sup>

In Nairobi, the third round of negotiations to advance the **Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership (Stip)** between Kenya and the US was completed on 31 January.<sup>47</sup> Kenya is pushing for the deal and renewal of the **African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)** which expires in 2025. On their part, the US has been lobbying for increased transparent and competitive procurement in Kenya's public government.<sup>48</sup> The talks culminated in the signing of a grant deal by National Treasury CS **Njuguna Ndung'u** and US ambassador **Meg Whitman** for KSh198m (\$1.23m) from the **US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA)** in technical assistance dedicated to reinforcing the country's public procurement and strengthening the value for money approach through developing a comprehensive procurement manual and guide for suppliers.<sup>49</sup>

Kenya's role as the US's ally in security, intelligence, and defence matters appears to be increasing over the last months and while Ruto's international offensive has been effective in boosting Kenya's image, he has not been as aggressive in publicising the potential long term benefits these international partnerships can lead to. Domestically Ruto remains unpopular, and his policies are criticised for making life more expensive for the average citizen. While his long-term strategies such as the **Affordable Housing Act** and social health insurance fund are vital for long-term stability and growth, a recent poll reported that 48% of Kenyans are feeling financially stressed and Ruto has not yet been able to alleviate the high cost of living and short-term economic woes of his population.<sup>50</sup>

## Planner

- 14 – 15 Feb 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya) 6<sup>th</sup> Africa Tech Summit**;
- 21 – 23 May 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya) International Energy Agency (IEA) 9<sup>th</sup> annual global conference on energy efficiency**;
- 2 – 5 Apr 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya) Connected Africa ICT and digital economy summit 2024**;
- 8 – 10 Apr 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya) 5<sup>th</sup> Africa Women Summit**;
- 24 – 25 Apr 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya) American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) business summit**;
- 27 – 31 May 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya) African Development Bank Group annual meeting**;
- 16 – 21 Jul 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya) Kenya Geothermal Congress 2024**;
- 2025 **Lamu (Kenya) Expected commencement of LAPSET Corridor Programme construction of standard gauge railway (SGR) linking Lamu port to Ethiopia and South Sudan**;

## Chronology

<sup>46</sup> [The East African](#), 3 Feb 2024

<sup>47</sup> [The East African](#), 3 Feb 2024

<sup>48</sup> [The Star](#), 7 Feb 2024

<sup>49</sup> [The Star](#), 7 Feb 2024

<sup>50</sup> [Business Insider](#), 9 Feb 2024

11 Feb 2023 **Kaptagat (Kenya)** *BBC*. Men's marathon world record holder **Kelvin Kiptum** dies in a road accident in western Kenya alongside his coach, **Rwanda's Gervais Hakizimana**. Fatal road accidents are tragically common in Kenya, on 9 February a **British** national died in a collision with a lorry hours after arriving in the country for holiday;

10 Feb 2024 **Mombasa (Kenya)** *Kenyans*. **Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI)** detectives intercept containers at **Mombasa Container Terminal (MCT)** destined for **China** containing soil instead of tantalum minerals allegedly bought by a Chinese national for KSh151m (\$942,278). Initial investigations link the incident to fake gold scammers operating in **Nairobi**;

10 Feb 2024 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Arise*. Acting high commissioner to **Nigeria, Samuel Mogere** discloses government plans to commence daily **Kenya Airways (KQ)** flights to Nigeria as part of its visa-free entry policy;

10 Feb 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *AzerNews*. President **William Ruto** congratulates **Azerbaijan's** President **Ilham Aliyev** on his re-election and expresses confidence in exploring future partnerships in trade and investments, energy, climate change, and tourism;

9 Feb 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Zawya*. The **World Bank** commits \$120m to fund a vaccine production facility, which is expected to start operations in 2029;

9 Feb 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Techpoint Africa*. Information technology (IT) professionals including experts from the **American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM)** raise significant concerns over flaws in the proposed **Kenya Robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Society Bill 2023** which seeks to establish the **Kenya Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Society**, a regulatory body governing the country's use of robotics, AI, and the Internet of Things (IoT) and proposes a prison sentence of up to 24 months, a KSh 1m (\$6,250) fine, or both, for unlicensed AI and robotic entities;;

9 Feb 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Airways*. **Kenya Airways (KQ)** signs a codeshare contract with **Air Europa (UX)**, **Spain's** third largest carrier, to extend KQ's reach in **Europe** and increase customers' travel options;

8 Feb 2024 **Thika (Kenya)** *The Guardian*. Global producer, distributor, and marketer of fresh and fresh-cut fruits and vegetables **Fresh Del Monte** claims it should not be held liable for a civil lawsuit alleging killing, rape, and violence by security guards at its Kenyan pineapple farm due to the company's incorporation in the **Cayman Islands**. The company's Kenyan subsidiary **Del Monte Kenya** applied to have the case against the farm struck out altogether claiming it was "without basis, scandalous, frivolous and vexatious";

8 Feb 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. **Central Bank of Kenya (CBK)** discloses that the **World Bank** has allocated \$1.5 billion in new funding to Kenya before the lapse of the current fiscal year to June;

8 Feb 2024 **Thika (Kenya)** *The Guardian*. **United Kingdom**-based newspaper **The Guardian** and the **Bureau of Investigative Journalism** uncover allegations that **United States**-headquartered **Del Monte** representatives offered bribes to men who took part in a 21 December raid in which four men died, to persuade them to back the company's version of events;

8 Feb 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *KBC*. President **William Ruto** appoints former treasury cabinet secretary (CS) **Henry Rotich** as the senior advisor on fiscal affairs and budget policy in his office;

8 Feb 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *BBC*. Kenyan national **Kelvin Kangethe**, who was in police custody awaiting possible extradition to the **United States (US)** for murder charges, escapes police custody in Nairobi and is on the run;

7 Feb 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. **Central Bank of Kenya (CBK)** raises the benchmark lending rate by 50 basis points to 13% citing inflationary pressures and challenges facing the shilling;

7 Feb 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Star*. **Milimani** court acquits former Nairobi governor **Mike Sonko** and 16 others in a case relating to the alleged misappropriation of KSh357m (\$2.2m) in funds belonging to the Nairobi County government;

7 Feb 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *BBC*. Four suspects are arraigned in a **Nairobi** court for the recent gas explosion that killed at least six people. Their arrest follows President **William Ruto's** orders that the government officials who allowed the gas plant to illegally operate in a residential area be arrested and prosecuted due to "incompetence and corruption."

7 Feb 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Citizen Digital*. Energy ministry announces that electricity prices for all types of consumers will decrease by Ksh.3.44 (\$0.02) per unit by the end of February;

6 Feb 2024 **Malindi (Kenya)** *Reuters*. The **Malindi** high court charges Kenyan cult leader **Paul Mackenzie** and 29 associates with the murder of 191 children whose bodies have been exhumed from the **Shakahola forest**;

6 Feb 2024 **Meru (Kenya)** *KBC*. **Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA)** chairman **Cornelly Serum** says that Kenya will begin exports of miraa to **Israel** following the identification of buyers for the stimulant;

5 Feb 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Office of the President of the Republic of Kenya*. President **William Ruto** announces that the Kenya and **Poland** have signed two memoranda of understanding (MoUs) on tax solidarity, agriculture, and rural development;

3 Feb 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *AP News*. President **William Ruto** says corruption and officials' incompetence are what led to the recent explosion at a liquid petroleum plant that killed six people and injured over 280 others;

2 Feb 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Africa Report*. **Social Health Authority (SHA)** chairman **Timothy Olweny** states that the new national medical insurance entity is projected to collect around KSh275 billion (\$1.7 billion) annually to fund President **William Ruto's** ambitious healthcare promises;

1 Feb 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *BBC*. A lorry carrying gas cylinders explodes in an illegal gas storage site situated in a residential area in Nairobi's **Embakasi** district killing three and injuring over 250 people;

31 Jan 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The East African*. President **William Ruto** sets a new early partial **Eurobond** payment deadline for February or March after the government failed to meet its own December deadline;

30 Jan 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Day*. President **William Ruto** endorses **Italian** prime minister **Giorgia Meloni's** new plan for closer cooperation with **Africa**, adding that it represents a good start to "recalibrating" Africa's relationship with Italy;

29 Jan 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Insider Africa*. The ongoing dispute between **Uganda** and Kenya over their oil partnership has already cost Kenya \$200m, with further financial repercussions anticipated;

27 Jan 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Guardian*. Thousands of women march in major cities against femicide following a rise in violent killings of women in Kenya;

27 Jan 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Financial Times*. High court blocks Kenya's planned police deployment to **Haiti**, stating that Kenya cannot deploy police to countries with which it does not have reciprocal policing agreements;

25 Jan 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *DW*. **German** foreign minister **Annalena Baerbock** meets with President **William Ruto** to discuss regional peace efforts on the ongoing conflict in **Sudan**;

25 Jan 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Reuters*. Head of the public debt management office in the finance ministry, **Haron Sirima**, will reportedly leave his post in the next two months, with his departure coinciding with Kenya's escalating debt sustainability concerns;

25 Jan 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Zawya*. The first joint technical committee meeting for the **Lamu Port, South Sudan, Ethiopia (LAPSSET) Corridor Development Programme** is held in Nairobi;;

24 Jan 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. Mines minister **Salim Mvurya** confirms that Kenya has discovered its first deposits of the critical mineral coltan which is used to manufacture electric car batteries, mobile phones, and other electronic devices;

23 Jan 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The East African*. **Central Bank of Kenya (CBK)** indicates that diaspora remittances reached \$4.19 billion in 2023, substantially boosting the current account balance amid lower export revenues;

22 Jan 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Bloomberg*. The shilling falls to a record low of 162.29 against the **United States** dollar, with some forecasts expecting the shilling to depreciate to as low as 210 against the dollar before year-end;

22 Jan 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. **Kenya Railways Corporation (KRC)** says the proposed standard gauge railway (SGR) running on the **Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport Corridor** will cost \$16 billion;

18 Jan 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Reuters*. Finance minister **Njuguna Ndung'u** says in a letter to the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** that Kenya will go to the international bond market as soon as the market situation allows;

17 Jan 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Reuters*. **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** approves an additional \$941m in funding for Kenya, with an immediate disbursement of \$624.5m.