

**AFRICA RISK CONSULTING****Kenya Monthly Briefing August 2023**

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**Kenya Summary 22 August 2023**

*Azimio leader Raila Odinga lashes out at United States (US) ambassador Meg Whitman after she praises Kenya's 2022 general election as free and fair. Opposition politicians claim that her comments threaten to derail precarious bipartisan talks before they even begin. Environment and Land Court (ELC) issues a stay on President William Ruto's (2022-present) directive to lift the ban on nationwide logging on 3 August. The order, applauded by conservationists, frustrates local farming communities and the timber industry whose livelihoods stand to improve by legalising logging. Kenya tussles with safeguarding citizens' private data whilst maintaining its position as East Africa's technological hub as it becomes the first country to suspend cryptocurrency project Worldcoin over regulatory concerns. Online services in Kenya's public and private sectors are disrupted during a cyber-attack by Anonymous Sudan.*

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**US ambassador stokes tensions with comments about the 2022 election**

**United States** ambassador to Kenya, **Meg Whitman**, has stoked ongoing tensions between President **William Ruto** (2022-current) and **Azimio** opposition leader **Raila Odinga** after hailing Kenya as the most stable democracy in **Africa** and calling the 2022 presidential elections the “*freest, fairest, and most credible election in Kenyan history.*”<sup>1</sup> Whitman made the comments on 16 August during the **8<sup>th</sup> Devolution Conference**, where she was presenting on US-Kenya trade opportunities.<sup>2</sup>

Odinga, who has been in conflict with Ruto over alleged fraud in last year's general election, was highly critical of Whitman's general election comment, calling her “*rogue,*” and telling her to “*keep your mouth shut while you are here*” threatening to seek her recall if she doesn't stop her “*interference without invitation*” in internal affairs.<sup>3</sup> Reacting to the criticism, the government assured Whitman that they stand behind her. Foreign affairs cabinet secretary (CS) **Alfred Mutua** welcomed Whitman's “*forthright and honest*” comments and reminded Odinga that only his ministry has the power to order a recall of an envoy.<sup>4</sup>

Another key point of contention was raised during Whitman's presentation – the **Finance Bill 2023**. Whitman praised Ruto's **Kenya Kwanza** government for taking measures to improve the business environment and emphasised the importance of a “*consistent, transparent and fairly administered national tax policy*” for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). She also recognised that the newly implemented bill had many policies that lent towards making the tax system more consistent, however, the bill has been a key issue in the anti-government protests Odinga has organised since March.

In the evening following Whitman's presentation, the **National Assembly** passed a motion formally establishing the **National Dialogue Committee**. This ten-member bipartisan team is tasked with negotiating resolutions following the post-election crisis and will report to the Kenya Kwanza and Azimio leadership before submitting its report to **Parliament**.<sup>5</sup> Member of parliament (MP) and Azimio coalition member **Innocent Mugabe** called Whitman's statement insensitive, coming at a time when Kenya is “*walking on eggshells*” trying to navigate the bipartisan talks.<sup>6</sup> This is the furthest the two sides have come to resolving the conflict after previous attempts at bipartisan talks failed. While the prospect of resolution between Ruto and Odinga remains fragile, observers are hopeful that the

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<sup>1</sup> Broadcast Speech, Citizen TV, 16 Aug 2023

<sup>2</sup> The Standard, 17 Aug 2023

<sup>3</sup> Member of Parliament Fred Okanga, The East African, 18 Aug 2023

<sup>4</sup> The East African, 18 Aug 2023

<sup>5</sup> Daily Nation, 17 Aug 2023

<sup>6</sup> Citizen TV, 21 Aug 2023

committee will succeed at setting an agenda both sides agree on. However, Ruto's unwillingness to rehash the election results and Odinga's reluctance to retreat from the political scene means that compromise on either end is unlikely. Odinga has already announced that anti-government protests will resume in September if the opposition's demands are not met.<sup>7</sup>

### Court halts Ruto's plans to allow logging in Kenya's forests

Justice **Oscar Angote**, presiding judge of the **Environment and Land Court (ELC)**, on 3 August issued interim orders against Ruto's 2 July executive order to lift the 2018 ban on logging in government forests. The court ordered a 14-day stay on Ruto's repeal of the ban pending the hearing and determination of the case filed by the **Law Society of Kenya (LSK)**. The LSK argued that the reintroduction of logging in Kenya disregarded the role of forests in "*mitigating climate change, preserving biodiversity and safeguarding vital ecosystems*" and further stated that the ban violated the constitution which stipulates that the state "*eliminate processes and activities that would endanger the environment.*"<sup>8</sup> The court barred the government from releasing new logging licenses and permits and issued conservatory orders to suspend government plans to re-introduce the **Plantation Establishment and Livelihood Improvement Scheme (PELIS)**.

The scheme was introduced in 1910 under colonial rule and was intended to benefit local communities by providing them allotments in degraded forests to plant essential food crops such as maize, beans, and peas in exchange for planting tree saplings.<sup>9</sup> After three years, when the trees reached maturation, the farmers were meant to move out, however, in practice the agroforestry system was poorly managed and farmers often flouted rules, cutting down trees and extending their farming land while the **Kenya Forest Service (KFS)**, tasked with overseeing the process, looked the other way.<sup>10</sup> This led former president **Uhuru Kenyatta** (2017-2022) to introduce the ban.

Ruto's government defended the lifting of the ban by stating that only mature trees in government plantations would be harvested and out of a total of 150,000 hectares of commercial forests a maximum of 5,000 hectares would be harvested annually.<sup>11</sup> Reinstating logging would also significantly improve youth employment opportunities in rural areas as the formal forest sector has the potential to employ up to 50,000 people directly and between 300,000 and 600,000 people indirectly.<sup>12</sup> Environment CS **Soipan Tuya** stated that lifting the ban would further decrease importation of timber to meet Kenya's increasing demand - Kenya is the largest importer of timber and re-exporter of forest products to its neighbours and the local timber industry contributes 3.6% to the country's gross domestic product (GDP).<sup>13,14</sup> To boost local timber trade the government recently increased the import tax on raw timber and timber products from 25% to 35%.<sup>15</sup>

Ruto assured observers that logging will follow strict harvesting rules and **Kenya Forest Services (KFS)** subsequently authorised a 45-day harvesting period. Each tree felled requires inspection by a ranger and to be stamped with a mark before being trucked out. However, past mismanagement by KFS has led to low public trust in the organisation whose complicity in corruption and deforestation led to the ban.<sup>16</sup> **Joshua Cheboiwo**, director of the **Kenya Forestry Research Institute (Kefri)** notes that while the government has made efforts to stop illegal logging activities, they have not paid enough attention towards implementing sector reforms.<sup>17</sup> Without clearly expressed guidelines about where and what can be harvested amidst conflicting regulations and poor public trust in

<sup>7</sup> Citizen Digital, 9 Aug

<sup>8</sup> Kenya Law Reform Commission, Constitution of Kenya, klrc.go.ke

<sup>9</sup> The Star, 27 Sep 2022

<sup>10</sup> The Standard, 1 Oct 2022

<sup>11</sup> The Star, 7 Jul 2023

<sup>12</sup> Barrons, 6 Aug 2023

<sup>13</sup> The East African, 7 Aug 2023

<sup>14</sup> Kenya News Agency, 5 Aug 2023

<sup>15</sup> Business Daily, 6 Jul 2023

<sup>16</sup> The Standard, 1 May 2018

<sup>17</sup> The East African, 7 Aug 2023

government agencies, it is likely that the illegal timber trade will gain ground alongside the lifting of the ban. An **Africa Risk Consulting Briefing (ARC Briefing)** source stated that despite their foreign government's participation in discussions with the office of the environment CS and recommendations of carrying out phased reforms, their advice was not heeded.

Since taking office Ruto has positioned himself as a champion of the environment for the continent and during the inaugural **African Climate Action Summit** held in September 2022 alongside **Africa Climate Week (ACW 2023)** stated intentions to position Kenya and other African countries as providing solutions for combatting man-made climate change by offering the global north investment opportunities in renewable energy resources.<sup>18</sup> Environmental actors and critics of the government noted levels of hypocrisy in Ruto's commitment to countering effects of climate change, noting that Ruto's plan to re-establish logging is at odds with his plan to plant 15 billion trees over ten years to reduce carbon emissions.

Although the hearing of LSK's case was due for 14 August, at the time of writing no determination has been heard and the timber industry remains in limbo, creating tension for local farmers, environmentalists, and investors who have a stake in Kenyan timber. This lack of clarity is similar to the government's treatment of another extractive industry – mining. Despite communication that the government intends to lift the moratorium on mining licenses, movement towards that has been extremely slow. Opening both sectors has the potential to greatly improve the economy and livelihoods, but the government's mixed messages and absence of timelines might lead investors to look elsewhere in the region.

### Kenya suspends cryptocurrency project Worldcoin over regulatory concerns

The **Kenyan High Court** suspended the local activities of US-headquartered cryptocurrency project **Worldcoin** on 2 August pending a multi-agency investigation into its risks to citizens' privacy. The project requires users to register their iris scans in exchange for a digital 'WorldID' which can be used to verify digital currency trading whilst maintaining the user's anonymity. Kenya's security, financial services, and data protection agencies have criticised Worldcoin's launch in Kenya and, while the project is under similar scrutiny by data watchdogs in the **United Kingdom, Germany, and France**, Kenya is the first country to officially suspend Worldcoin's local activities.<sup>19</sup>

The suspension followed the 1 August continental launch of Worldcoin in Kenya, where over four million Kenyans already trade in cryptocurrencies.<sup>20</sup> On the day of the launch, local media reported that over 350,000 Kenyans had signed up to register their biometric data in exchange for 25 free cryptocurrency tokens, worth KSh 7,000 (\$49) at the time.<sup>21</sup> Following the launch, many users who signed up did not realise how to access their 25 tokens and without an option to cash out had to sell their coins through cryptocurrency exchanges like **Binance**, or find a buyer in Kenya's informal crypto economy. This left many registered users vulnerable to exorbitant exchange rates or imposter buyers who scammed them out of their tokens.<sup>22</sup>

The **Communications Authority of Kenya** and the **Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC)** said that obtaining consumer consent in return for a monetary award bordered on incentive, particularly if the consumer was not given a clear explanation of why their biometric data was required or how it was to be used.<sup>23,24</sup> The tactic of giving free cryptocurrency in exchange for biometric data is particularly problematic in low-income countries, as people could be enticed by the prospect of earning free money amid the rising cost of living.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>18</sup> The Star, 17 Aug 2023

<sup>19</sup> Tech Monitor, 9 Aug 2023

<sup>20</sup> Capital News, 7 Aug 2023

<sup>21</sup> Reuters, 2 Aug 2023

<sup>22</sup> Rest of World, 11 Aug 2023

<sup>23</sup> Reuters, 2 Aug 2023

<sup>24</sup> Tech Monitor, 9 Aug 2023

<sup>25</sup> Quartz, 31 Jul 2023

On 5 August, police carried out a government-sanctioned raid of Worldcoin's **Nairobi** warehouse and confiscated machines believed to store data gathered by the firm.<sup>26</sup> The government further banned local and foreign Worldcoin staff from leaving the country.<sup>27</sup> Worldcoin released a statement saying the company would take the time of suspension to cooperate with authorities and boost understanding of privacy measures it has in place in Kenya:

*"Worldcoin remains committed to providing an inclusive, privacy-preserving, decentralised on-ramp to the global digital economy and looks forward to resuming its services in Kenya while working closely with local regulators and other stakeholders."*<sup>28</sup>

National Assembly speaker **Moses Wetang'ula** directed a joint committee to investigate Worldcoin's activities in Kenya on 20 August, following concern over how the company was able to access and process citizens' data. Worldcoin is registered in Kenya as a data controller under its US headquartered parent company **Tools for Humanity Corporation** and **Tools for Humanity GmbH** based in **Germany**.<sup>29</sup> However, investigations revealed that Worldcoin hired Kenyan company, **Sense Marketing**, to capture the data on its behalf. Despite allegedly operating in Kenya since 11 June, it is not registered with the ODPC as a data controller or processor as mandated in the **Data Protection Act 2021**.<sup>30</sup>

Data commissioner **Immaculate Kassait** told the departmental committee on communication, information, and innovation that ODPC began investigating Worldcoin's Kenyan operations in April 2022 already. ODPC also discovered that Worldcoin had been collecting personal data in Kenya on or around 31 May 2021.<sup>31</sup> It is unclear what steps ODPC took on receipt of this information and Kassait was subsequently accused of failing in her role to safeguard data privacy.<sup>32</sup> In May, the ODPC wrote a letter to Tools for Humanity's lawyer, ordering Tools for Humanity to cease all personal data collection in Kenya but it appears the company ignored instructions.

In response to this saga, information, communication, and digital economy CS **Eliud Owalo** stated "*data is the new oil*" and the government must protect its citizens from foreign interest in Kenyan personal data.<sup>33</sup> This perspective calls into question what kind of governance framework Kenya can employ to govern cyber currency use amidst threats to citizens' privacy and security. By restricting Kenyan participation in the cybersphere too rigidly the country risks losing out on similar technological projects which could have the potential to benefit the economy.

### **Sudanese group claims responsibility for cyber-attack on e-Citizen**

Owalo confirmed on 27 July that the government's electronic services platform **eCitizen** was targeted in a **Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS)** cyber-attack which obstructed access to more than 5,000 government services.<sup>34</sup> Both the private and public sectors were affected for more than 48 hours with media group **Standard Media, Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC), Kenya Railways, Safaricom, Absa Bank, KCB, and Standard Chartered Bank** issuing statements alerting customers about disruption to their online services.<sup>35</sup> The disruption to Safaricom's mobile money platform **M-Pesa** particularly upset the economy as users could not access their accounts to pay daily essentials such as bus fares, salaries, and electrical bills. The foreign ministry also stated that the **e-visa** platform was down, affecting travel into the country and out of the country.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>26</sup> Tech Cabal, 7 Aug 2023

<sup>27</sup> Kenyans, 9 Aug 2023

<sup>28</sup> The Guardian, 3 Aug 2023

<sup>29</sup> Office of the Data Protection Commissioner, odpc.go.ke

<sup>30</sup> People Daily, 4 Aug 2023

<sup>31</sup> Citizen Digital, 15 Aug 2023

<sup>32</sup> The Standard, 19 Aug 2023

<sup>33</sup> The Standard, 9 Aug 2023

<sup>34</sup> Daily Nation, 28 Jul 2023

<sup>35</sup> ITWeb, 28 Jul 2023

<sup>36</sup> Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, State Department of Foreign Affairs, 27 Jul 2023

The attack came less than a month after Ruto's public launch of the e-citizen platform on 30 June, where he declared that e-governance would make life easier for every citizen.<sup>37</sup> Owalo stated after the attack that government agencies were on high alert and had enhanced the security of the e-Citizen portal and all government services sites. He also assured citizens that the hackers did not access or lose any data.<sup>38</sup>

International 'hactivist group' **Anonymous Sudan** claimed responsibility for the attack and, on social media platform **Telegram**, demanded the government issue an official apology to **Sudan** or send \$200,000 worth of bitcoin for the cessation of attacks.<sup>39</sup> The group stated that their motivation behind the attacks was to "*teach (Kenya's) arrogant government a lesson to not meddle in Sudanese internal affairs.*"<sup>40</sup> Kenya has taken a lead role in mediating an end to the Sudanese conflict, which broke out in April 2023 between the **Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF)** and the paramilitary **Rapid Support Forces (RSF)**. Further tensions were added when Ruto was elected chairman of the **Quartet Group**, a subdivision of the regional trade bloc **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)**. SAF army general **Abdel Fattah al-Burhan** opposed Ruto's chairmanship and raised concern over Kenya's neutrality, alleging that Ruto has business ties with RSF rebels.<sup>41</sup> While Sudan has its grievances with Kenya, threat intelligence expert **Mattias Wahlen** from **Swedish** cyber security service provider **TruSec** claimed that Anonymous Sudan operates out of **Russia** as a "*Russian information operation.*"<sup>42</sup> Thus far, no confirmation of this is available.

Beyond geopolitical implications, the attack on Kenya comes on the back of multiple recent warnings by experts that African countries have increasingly become focal points for cyber threats.<sup>43</sup> Cybersecurity and anti-virus provider **Kaspersky Security Network (KSN)** data ranks Kenya 35<sup>th</sup> in the global top 100 countries for online threats, reporting that in 2022 there were 143,000 backdoor and spyware attack attempts in Kenya, compared to 106,000 in **South Africa** and 46,000 in **Nigeria**.<sup>44</sup> One such incident includes the **Chinese** state-linked hacking team, **BackdoorDiplomacy**, targeting Kenya's government over a three-year campaign against key ministries and state institutions.<sup>45</sup>

Cyber threats are evolving at a faster pace than security systems and as a result, businesses must be constantly vigilant.<sup>46</sup> This poses challenges to governments and businesses who are under increasing pressure to digitalise services and, so quickly, sometimes leaving them no time to implement updated security measures, leaving them vulnerable to security breaches. Public and private sectors need to be constantly up to date on the latest threats and technology which requires a lot of manpower and knowledge. The government, aware of need to expand its tech talent pool has begun offering low-cost degree programmes at the newly launched **Open University of Kenya** including degrees in cyber security and digital forensics, data science, and technology education.<sup>47</sup>

## Planner

27 Aug – 1 Sep **Mombasa (Kenya)** 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference for the African Network of Parliamentary Budget Offices (PBOs)

1-2 Sep **Nairobi (Kenya)** 11<sup>th</sup> Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA)

4-8 Sep **Nairobi (Kenya)** Africa Climate Week (ACW) 2023

<sup>37</sup> Business Daily, 28 Jul 2023

<sup>38</sup> Daily Nation, 27 Jul 2023

<sup>39</sup> Telegram, Anonymous Sudan, 27 Jul 2023

<sup>40</sup> Telegram, Anonymous Sudan, 23 Jul 2023

<sup>41</sup> Voice of America, 25 Jul 2023

<sup>42</sup> Anonymous Sudan: Threat Intelligence Report, trusec.com, 20 Feb 2023

<sup>43</sup> ITWeb, 28 Jul 2023

<sup>44</sup> The FinTech Times, 9 Jun 2023

<sup>45</sup> Reuters, 24 May 2023

<sup>46</sup> Intelligent CISO, 6 Jul 2023

<sup>47</sup> The Standard, 1 Aug 2023

4-6 Sep **Nairobi (Kenya)** African Climate Action Summit;  
 10 Oct **(Kenya)** Utamaduni Day (national holiday)  
 20 Oct **(Kenya)** Mashujaa Day (national holiday)  
 7-9 Nov **Nairobi (Kenya)** East Africa Oil and Gas Summit 2023

### Chronology

21 Aug 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *People Daily*. President **William Ruto** and his **Indonesian** counterpart **Joko Widodo** sign memoranda of understanding (MOUs) on cooperation in food security, renewable energy, mining and geology, and pharmaceuticals. Ruto also announces the lifting of visa restrictions for Indonesian passport holders and the finalising of details of a possible **Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)**;

21 Aug 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. Treasury cabinet secretary (CS) **Njuguna Ndung'u** says that government will step back from the government-backed fuel import credit scheme negotiated with **Gulf** nations after the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** expressed concerns that taxpayers might be exposed to currency-related costs;

19 Aug 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Standard*. President **William Ruto** holds bilateral talks with **South Sudan** President **Salva Kiir**. The two sign an agreement to establish a fibreoptic cable along the **Eldoret-Juba Road** and agree to collaborate on restoring peace in South Sudan;

19 Aug 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *NTV Kenya*. **National Treasury** reports that the **Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)** has collected KSh155 billion (\$1.07 billion) in tax revenue in July 2023, an increase of 18.7% compared to the amount collected in July 2022, and announces the downward revision of planned domestic borrowing for the current financial year to KSh305 billion (\$2.10 billion) from the KSh587 billion (\$4.05 billion) planned in the budget presentation;

18 Aug 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *BNN*. Officials reveal that discussions are underway with the **World Bank** and the **European Union (EU)** to secure additional funding for the Hustler Fund project;

18 Aug 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. President **William Ruto** nominates **Andrew Mukite Musangi** as the next **Central Bank of Kenya (CBK)** chairperson following the 17 June departure of **Mohammed Nyaoga**;

17 Aug 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Star*. Former **Uasin Gishu** governor and current senator **Jackson Mandago** is arraigned alongside **Joshua Lelei** and **Meshack Roo** over accusations of conspiring to steal KSh1.1 billion (\$7.6m) from a **Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB)** account in **Eldoret** registered under the **Uasin Gishu Education Trust Fund** which was designated for overseas university fees for Kenyan scholarship students in **Finland**;

17 Aug 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. **Law Society of Kenya (LSK)** signs a pact with the **Financial Reporting Centre (FRC)** to report suspicious transactions by their clients to the FRC in a major boost to the fight against money laundering and meets one of the conditions Kenya was required to fulfil to continue accessing its \$2.34 billion loan from the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**;

14 Aug 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. President **William Ruto** applies a fuel subsidy to the latest fuel prices announced by the **Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA)** with fuel prices at KSh194.68 (\$1.34) for super, KSh 179.67 (\$1.24) for diesel and KSh169.48 (\$1.17) for kerosene;

14 Aug 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Insider Africa*. Kenya and **Uganda** establish a new customs post at the **Suam** border crossing funded by the **African Finance Development Bank** and supported by **China State Engineering Construction Corporation**. The post, the third one-stop border facility, will centralise immigration, customs, security and sanitary inspections, improving efficiency in transporting and clearing goods;

14 Aug 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. **European Union (EU)** and its partners provide Kenya KSh 6.9 billion (\$47.6m) to reimburse its troops for fighting **al Shabab** militia in **Somalia**. To date, Kenya has received KSh 52.25 billion (\$361m) since entering Somalia to fight al-Shabaab terrorists in 2011;

10 Aug 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Standard*. Executive director for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Kenya Forum **Florence Syevuo** says that the implementation of Kenya's SDGs is halfway complete since adopting the 2030 agenda in 2015;

10 Aug 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *La Prosperite*. President **William Ruto** begins a three-day state visit to **Mozambique** to assess the situation of cooperation between the two countries;

8 Aug 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Pulse Kenya*. Inspector general of police **Japhet Koome** accuses the opposition of hiring bodies from morgues to plant during anti-government protests in recent weeks, allowing allegations of police brutality to run rife;

8 Aug 2023 **Mombasa (Kenya)** *People Daily*. **Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI)** president **Eric Rutto** estimates that the private sector lost KSh1.2 billion (\$8.29m) every hour during the three days of protests;

8 Aug 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. **Austria** provides Kenya with a KSh 6.28 billion (\$43.4m) concessional loan to support projects of mutual interest in sectors such as water, energy, health, and education;

8 Aug 2023 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Capital News*. Prime cabinet secretary (CS) **Musalia Mudavadi** attends the 2<sup>nd</sup> **G25 African Coffee** summit of heads of state and government held in Kampala;

7 Aug 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Star*. National carrier **Kenya Airways** and **United States (US) Delta Airlines** announce an expansion of the codeshare which will see customers get additional travel options within **Africa** and the US;

5 Aug 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The East African*. Negotiators representing President **William Ruto** and opposition leader **Raila Odinga** meet to set a date for talks between Ruto and Odinga aimed at resolving Kenya's political dispute that has triggered several protests;

5 Aug 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. The **Law Society of Kenya (LSK)** goes to court to challenge the **Finance Bill 2023**, arguing that it violates sections of the constitution and should be declared illegal and null.

3 Aug 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Bloomberg*. Kenya's **Eurobond** plunges after vice president and senior credit officer **David Rogovic** from **United States**-based **Moody's** says that Kenya's plan to buyback part of its \$2 billion Eurobond before maturity "*at a price below par value would constitute an economic loss to investors*";

2 Aug 2023 **Lamu (Kenya)** *The Star*. Police report that at least two people were killed, and 10 others injured in an attack by **al-Shabab** terrorists at the border of Lamu and **Tana River** counties;

1 Aug 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The East African*. **Duplo**, a payments platform for African businesses, indicates that over 80% of Kenyan companies take more than a day to process invoices and the wait can be nearly a year for some firms before the money is received;

1 Aug 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The East African*. **African Development Bank (AfDB)** report finds that Kenya has the lowest economic inequality among its **East Africa Community (EAC)** counterparts despite a surge in energy and food prices;

1 Aug 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The East African*. Government nominates Kenyan companies **Compact Consolbase (CFS)**, **Mombasa Container Terminal (MCT)**, and **Mitchell Cotts** to handle more than 1.1 million tonnes of cargo annually destined for **South Sudan** from **Mombasa Port**;

31 Jul 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Zawya*. Kenyan electric bus manufacturer **BasiGo** announces entry into **Rwanda** in its first international expansion partnering with **Kigali**-based automated fare service provider **AC Mobility**;

27 Jun 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. Online information service **Disrupt Africa** reports that Kenyan start-ups were the second most attractive to funders in 2022 in Africa, securing a combined \$1.3 billion among them;

27 Jul 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Insider*. **Smile ID's** Know Your Customer (KYC) report 2023 ranks Kenya as the highest-risk country for ID fraud compared to other countries analysed;

27 Jul 2023 **Rome (Italy)** *Daily Nation*. Deputy president **Rigathi Gachagua** hints at a forthcoming reshuffling of diplomatic appointments to ensure greater focus of foreign missions on marketing Kenya's products;

26 Jul 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Clean Technica*. President **William Ruto** inaugurates **Roam Park**, the largest electric motorcycle assembly plant in **East Africa** spearheaded by **Sweden**-founded and Nairobi-based **Roam Electric**;

26 Jul 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Reuters*. Kenya's opposition holds vigils for protesters injured and killed in recent protests;

26 Jul 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. President **William Ruto** offers to meet opposition leader **Raila Odinga** for face-to-face talks in a bid to end opposition protests that have rocked Kenya on and off since March;

23 Jul 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Citizen*. Transporters and commodity exporters express concern over the deteriorating situation in Kenya as the ongoing cost of living protests backed by the opposition in **East Africa's** largest economy has a ripple effect in the entire region;

20 Jul 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Africanews*. Independent watchdog **Medico-Legal Unit** says police killed at least six people during demonstrations on 19 July, while the police claim they have been ordered not to report such deaths;

18 Jul 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. Kenya's opposition plans a new wave of anti-government protests this week;

18 Jul 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Gov.uk*. Embassies and high commissions of **Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Sweden, Ukraine, Switzerland, United Kingdom (UK)**, and the **United States (US)** issue a joint statement expressing concern over the loss of lives, levels of violence, and destruction of property during the recent demonstrations;

17 Jul 2023 **London (United Kingdom)** *Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office*. The **United Kingdom (UK)** government publish the UK-Kenya development partnership summary which praises Kenya as "a beacon of democracy and stability in the **East Africa** region" and recognises the main challenges to development as inequality, corruption, and economic management.

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