

**Kenya Summary 18 April 2023**

*Protests on 20, 27 and 30 March leaves three people dead and over 400 injured. Opposition leader Raila Odinga announces the cessation of protests on 2 April contingent on dialogue with President William Ruto's (2022-current) Kenya Kwanza government. The two agree to bi-partisan parliamentary talks but Odinga threatens to continue mass action on 20 April if his demands are not met. The American Chamber of Commerce regional business summit takes place in Nairobi on 29 and 30 March. Ruto announces upcoming changes to tax laws to promote international investment in Kenya. These changes include removing the 16% Value Added Tax (VAT) on exported services from 1 July and reviewing the 1.5% Digital Services Tax (DST). Recent statements from the mining, blue economy, and maritime affairs ministry suggest that the removal of the 2019 moratorium on issuing mining and exploration licenses is in the works. Mining cabinet secretary (CS) Salim Mvurya states that streamlining the sector is crucial to attract investment and increase investor confidence in extracting Kenya's natural resources.*

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**Raila Odinga threatens new protests alongside bipartisan parliamentary talks**

A series of protests on 20, 27, and 30 March over the electoral process and the high cost of living resulted in thousands of protesters violently clashing with police, leaving at least three people, including a police officer, dead and over 400 injured.<sup>1</sup> **Azimio la Umoja–One Kenya Coalition Party (Azimio)** leader **Raila Odinga** led the protests and claimed that on 30 March he was targeted in an alleged assassination attempt whereby his convoy was attacked and his car hit with seven live bullets.<sup>2</sup> The assassination attempt is unconfirmed but casualties were reported in **Kisumu, Homa Bay** and **Nairobi** counties and on 27 March, armed groups invaded former president **Uhuru Kenyatta's** (2013-2022) **Northlands City Farm** where they destroyed property and stole/killed livestock.<sup>3</sup> Thugs also attacked Odinga's family-owned gas cylinder-maker company, **Specter East Africa**.<sup>4</sup>

Police inspector general **Japeth Koome** declared the protests illegal, and police blocked Odinga's convoy from entering the central business district (CBD) through the use of road blockades and tear gas. The police's use of force against protesters prompted Azimio to write a letter to the prosecutor of the **International Criminal Court (ICC)** to open an investigation into Koome.<sup>5</sup> Civil society groups including **Amnesty Kenya** and the **Kenya Human Rights Commission** expressed concerns over human rights abuses and urged police to "*uphold their service to humanity*."<sup>6</sup> The ambassadors and high commissioners from **Australia, Canada, Denmark, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom (UK), and United States (US)** issued a joint statement on 29 March calling on Kenyan leaders and citizens to maintain peace and work towards a swift resolution.<sup>7</sup> **African Union Commission** chairperson **Moussa Faki Mahamat** also expressed concern at the violence that led to deaths and the interruption of economic activities in Nairobi.<sup>8</sup>

President **William Ruto** (2022-present) addressed the nation on 2 April for the first time since the protests began and highlighted the problem of criminals and malcontents taking advantage of the unrest. He appealed to Odinga to call off a scheduled 3 April protest.<sup>9</sup> Odinga saw Ruto's

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<sup>1</sup> Salama Fikira, Monthly Security Report Kenya, March 2023

<sup>2</sup> Voice of America, 2 Apr 2023

<sup>3</sup> The East African, 29 Mar 2023

<sup>4</sup> The Citizen, 28 Mar 2023

<sup>5</sup> The Star, 16 Apr 2023

<sup>6</sup> Africa News, 31 Mar 2023

<sup>7</sup> The East African, 29 Mar 2023

<sup>8</sup> The Monitor, 28 Mar 2023

<sup>9</sup> Voice of America, 2 Apr 2023

statement as an “*olive branch*” and a “*positive development*” and suspended the protests on the condition that the government would agree to dialogue through a bi-partisan taskforce to resolve the stalemate on the recruitment process of electoral commissioners and the cost of living.<sup>10</sup>

Since the truce, Ruto’s **Kenya Kwanza**-led government has attempted to limit the scope of the bi-partisan committee’s talks to only what the law permits parliament to discuss, thus taking any discussion of the cost of living off the table.<sup>11</sup> Although this gives players in the Azimio opposition a chance to influence the process, it is a far cry from Odinga’s demands to open the electoral servers for the 2022 general election.

During a public rally on 16 April Odinga stated that “*massive demonstrations*” against Ruto’s government would resume in Nairobi after Ramadhan which ends on 20 April.<sup>12</sup> Odinga also read out fresh demands which included reducing the price of a 2kg packet of maize flour to KSh100 (\$0.73), which is currently retailing at KSh200 (\$1.47). Ruto announced on 14 April that the price could reduce to KSh150 (\$1.10) in the coming weeks.<sup>13</sup>

Acceding to Ruto’s requirement that the talks be confined to the Kenya Kwanza-controlled parliament, the opposition selected seven Azimio members of parliament (MPs) to participate in the bi-partisan talks. With the talks set to begin on 18 April, developing an agreed agenda will form the bulk of the early sessions. Ruto has also asked Odinga to give the talks a chance before resorting to demonstrations.<sup>14</sup> The talks offer the opposition a chance, albeit tightly constrained, to communicate their grievances and have input into future electoral proceedings. If the talks go well, Azimio will be able to regain some credibility after several of its MPs defected to government aligned parties.<sup>15</sup> However, if the talks are marred by violent protests, Azimio risks being completely shut out. Senate majority leader **Aaron Cheruiyot** told the opposition “*it is bipartisan talks or the streets, you cannot have it both ways.*”<sup>16</sup> Ruto and deputy president **Rigathi Gachagua** warned that any protests that devolve into “*chaos*” will be met by tough action by authorities.<sup>17</sup>

The ongoing political war between Ruto and Odinga and the threatened continuation of political demonstrations will further worsen Kenya’s economy which is already suffocating under enormous public debt, the rising cost of food and insufficient government funds to pay civil servants.<sup>18</sup> Although Odinga has proven his ability to mobilise thousands of people to the streets, his credibility is waning due to his changing priorities regarding the cost of living, the abandoned threats of boycotting government owned/aligned products, and the unrealistic demand for Ruto to open the electoral servers. Many local observers speculate that Odinga’s sole aim of the protests is to maintain a semblance of power and relevance and has little to do with improving quality of life for the common man.<sup>19</sup> Additional protests are likely to further disrupt business and education and increase the risk of opportunistic crimes across the capital.

### **Ruto pledges to review two tax laws in bid to attract foreign investment**

The **American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM)** held its regional business summit in Nairobi between 29 and 30 March, during which Ruto announced that the government will remove the 16% Value Added Tax (VAT) on exported services from 1 July and review the 1.5%

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<sup>10</sup> Daily Nation, 3 Apr 2023

<sup>11</sup> Daily Nation, 18 Apr 2023

<sup>12</sup> Nairobi News, 16 Apr 2023

<sup>13</sup> The Standard, 14 Apr 2023

<sup>14</sup> Reuters 16 Apr 2023

<sup>15</sup> The Star, 9 Feb 2023

<sup>16</sup> The Star, 14 Apr 2023

<sup>17</sup> Capital News, 16 Apr 2023

<sup>18</sup> Daily Nation, 10 Apr 2023

<sup>19</sup> ARC Briefing source

Digital Services Tax (DST) to align with the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD)** global framework.

US ambassador to Kenya **Meg Whitman** expressed concern during the summit over Kenya's disjointed tax regime and stated that the different, and often contradictory tax regimes, under various agencies impede US-Kenya business.<sup>20</sup> Whitman mentioned that the US embassy had been working with the Kenyan government to develop a "*consistent, transparent, and fairly administered national tax policy*" which would encourage long-term foreign direct investment (FDI) and provide momentum for Kenya's economic development.<sup>21</sup>

The VAT on exported services was introduced in July 2022 under the **Finance Act 2022** and has been a contentious issue that has resulted in numerous disputes between the **Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)** and taxpayers involved in cross-border business. The VAT is charged on the supply of taxable goods/services made or provided in Kenya and on the importation of taxable goods/services into Kenya.<sup>22</sup> The high court dismissed petitions on 31 January challenging the imposition of VAT on exported services. Petitioners argued that VAT on the exportation of taxable services amounted to double taxation by multiple jurisdictions which violates the **Vienna Convention on the law of treaties (VCLT)**, the OECD International VAT and **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** guidelines on neutrality, as well as Kenya's bilateral agreements.<sup>23</sup>

Ruto has recognised that this tax provision is rendering the Kenyan economy "*uncompetitive*" compared to neighbouring **Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda** which do not tax exported services.<sup>24</sup> Furthermore, the high cost of procuring services from Kenya for a non-resident discourages investors from making Kenya their regional or global services hub.<sup>25</sup>

During the summit, Ruto also announced the government's commitment to review the 1.5% DST which is imposed on owners of platforms that charge a commission on the sellers such as US-based **Google, Netflix, Meta, Twitter, Microsoft, Airbnb, Trip Advisor**, and Netherlands-headquartered **Booking.com**.<sup>26</sup> DSTs emerged globally as a response to government's concerns about the ability of digital companies to generate large profits without having a physical presence or being subject to traditional forms of taxation. DSTs have faced criticism and challenges from various stakeholders who argue that they may lead to double taxation, disproportionately impact small-scale digital companies, and could trigger trade disputes between countries. The **Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM)** chairman **Mucaï Kunyiha** called the tax measures "*punitive*" and stated that operating in Kenya had become more expensive with many companies starting to choose neighbouring Tanzania instead.<sup>27</sup>

To address the problems that arise for businesses operating in the digital economy in foreign markets, the OECD has been developing international tax standardisation through a two-pillar approach.<sup>28</sup> Pillar one applies to the largest multinational enterprises (MNEs) with global sales above EUR 20 billion (\$21.98 billion) and re-allocates part of their profit to the countries where they sell their products and provide their services. Pillar two subjects any MNE with over EUR 750m (\$824.4m) of annual revenue to a global minimum corporate tax.<sup>29</sup> Although former president Kenyatta's administration rejected the OECD minimum tax framework, Ruto has stated that plans are now underway to align Kenya's DST with the two-pillar framework.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> The East African, 1 Apr 2023

<sup>21</sup> United States Embassy in Kenya, 29 March 2023

<sup>22</sup> Kenya Revenue Authority, KRA.go.ke

<sup>23</sup> Ernst and Young, 13 Feb 2023

<sup>24</sup> KPMG, 12 Mar 2023

<sup>25</sup> The Standard, 30 Mar 2023

<sup>26</sup> Business Daily, 22 Feb 2023

<sup>27</sup> Quartz, 30 Aug 2022

<sup>28</sup> Bloomberg Tax, 4 Jan 2023

<sup>29</sup> OECD, oecd.org, Jul 2022

<sup>30</sup> Business Daily, 31 Mar 2023

While moves to reform tax laws is a positive development for attracting and retaining foreign investment in Kenya, KRA has expressed concern as to how it will pan out. The tax agency is currently under huge pressure to meet its increased targets before the 2022/2023 financial year ends in June. As of 31 March, it had collected KSh1.4 trillion (\$10.3 billion) in tax revenue against a target of KSh2.1 trillion (\$15.49 billion).<sup>31</sup> KRA DST lead **Nickson Omondi** stated that implementing the OECD framework which requires Kenya to first abandon its own DST is problematic and that reforming the laws would require KRA to have greater access and resources to monitor the activities of all foreign companies operating either online or offline in Kenya to determine whether they qualify for taxation.<sup>32</sup>

Removing the 16% VAT on exported services and implementing the OECD's DST framework will require the government and tax agency to develop a viable strategy, particularly because the pressure to reform the Kenyan economy currently lies heavily on KRA officers to collect tax revenue. At the moment stakeholders in the government and private sector are unsure whether the tax agency's leadership and expertise of its employees are up for the task.<sup>33</sup> Nonetheless, it should be considered an extremely positive development for foreign companies already operating in Kenya or looking to invest in Kenya as a regional hub.

### Positive developments in Kenya's mining sector

Recent statements from government officials suggest that the long-anticipated removal of the 2019 moratorium on issuing mining and exploration licenses is in the works. The state department for mining's principal secretary (PS) **Elijah Mwangi** led members of the **National Assembly Departmental Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining** on a site tour of **Australian-owned Base Titanium Limited's** flagship **Kwale** mineral sands mine on 6 April.<sup>34</sup> The goal was to familiarise the government representatives with the company's world-class mining operations and learn about sustainable community programs.<sup>35</sup> Base Titanium's Kwale mine is Kenya's largest mine and contributes about 65% of Kenya's total mineral output value, which in 2022 amounted to KSh30.2 billion (\$222.8m).<sup>36</sup> However, Base Titanium's license ends in October 2024 and renewal is unconfirmed due to Kenya's 2019 moratorium on issuing new licences.

Kenya has not renewed existing licenses since 2015 when the former mining cabinet secretary (CS) **Najib Balala** revoked 65 companies' licences.<sup>37</sup> The companies whose licenses expire are forced to seek special allowances from the mining ministry which sees them operate under a gazette notice, which has been a major point of contention for investors looking to tap into Kenya's resources.<sup>38</sup>

The mining sector currently contributes less than 1% of GDP, equal to KSh 91.8 billion (\$67.7m) in 2021, but has potential to contribute between 4% to 10%.<sup>39</sup> Although the country has such resources as soda ash, salt, fluorite (fluorspar), limestone, granite, barite, gold, silver, copper, aluminium, zinc, titanium, niobium, thorium, and rare earth minerals, much of the country's natural resource wealth is untapped and comprises artisanal and small-scale miners.<sup>40</sup> The small-scale and artisanal mining projects are characterised by small mines, lack of technology, poor adherence to safety practices and use of manual labour over machinery.<sup>41</sup> Mining, blue

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<sup>31</sup> KTN, 14 Apr 2023

<sup>32</sup> Business Daily, 5 Apr 2023

<sup>33</sup> The Standard, 15 Apr 2023

<sup>34</sup> The Standard, 10 Apr 2023

<sup>35</sup> Base Titanium, Twitter, 6 Apr 2023

<sup>36</sup> Trading Economics, April 2023

<sup>37</sup> Business Daily, 23 Jan 2023

<sup>38</sup> Business Daily, 18 Jan 2023

<sup>39</sup> Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 29 Jun 2022

<sup>40</sup> The Standard, 27 Mar 2023

<sup>41</sup> The Standard, 15 Apr 2023

economy, and maritime affairs CS **Salim Mvurya** stated that the government is now committed to streamlining the mining sector through the **Mining Act of 2016** to unlock its full potential.<sup>42</sup>

The government based the ban on issuing new licenses on enabling the mining ministry to conduct a geo-survey of the country's resources. Mvurya stated in January that lifting the ban on issuance of prospecting and mining licenses could happen by June but it was wholly dependent on the completion of the geophysical data compilation from the survey.<sup>43</sup> Officials report that the survey, which started in 2021, is currently in its final stages and the 970 mineral occurrences identified must now be followed up by a fact-finding process.<sup>44</sup>

During the Kwale site tour, Mwangi said the mining, blue economy and maritime affairs ministry is working closely with all stakeholders to see the moratorium lifted "*as soon as possible*" in order to unlock new investment and boost government revenues.<sup>45</sup> The ministry under Mvurya identified key priority areas to streamline the sector which includes geo-surveying for mineral data, implementing a seamless licensing process, empowering artisanal miners, and establishing a mining laboratory.<sup>46</sup> He stated that once the online cadastre of licensing and issuance of permits is functional, the ministry plans to decentralise the function to the counties.<sup>47</sup> Under the **Mining Act 2016**, royalties paid by a holder of mineral rights are to be shared between the national government (70%), county governments (20%) and communities (10%).<sup>48</sup>

There is significant economic potential for Kenya's mining sector with the capacity to boost economic growth and development through increased export earnings, infrastructure development, job creation, and improvement of social welfare.<sup>49</sup> However, foreign investor confidence in the sector is low due to sector stagnation, challenging licencing procedures, and restrictive laws. A source told **Africa Risk Consulting Briefing (ARC Briefing)** that companies have frustrations with undefined timelines for receiving licenses and complained that the process is plagued with bureaucracy.<sup>50</sup> Ruto's reorganisation of the ministries' structures and functions is also a source of confusion – he split the petroleum and mining industry to create the energy and petroleum ministry, and the mining, blue economy, and maritime affairs ministry in January. Nonetheless, Ruto's government appears committed to coordinating and reigniting the sector.

There are also clear benefits to attracting investment to explore, extract, and export Kenya's natural resources. Although most of the minerals are exported raw, **National Assembly** environment, forestry and mining committee vice-chairperson, **Charles Kamuren** encouraged mining firms to add value to their products before it leaves the country, highlighting the benefits the sector could have in job creation, training, and poverty lifting schemes.<sup>51</sup> It is reasonable to expect more clarity on the licence moratorium during the **Kenya Mining Week** to be held between 17 and 19 July. The inaugural conference and exhibition, hosted by **Kenya Chamber of Mines and Association for Women in Energy and Extractives in Kenya (AWEIK)** seeks to position Kenya as a key destination for mining investment and showcase Kenya's potential.

## Planner

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<sup>42</sup> The Standard, 10 Apr 2023

<sup>43</sup> The Star, 23 Jan 2023

<sup>44</sup> The Standard, 27 Mar 2023

<sup>45</sup> Kenya News Agency, 8 Apr 2023

<sup>46</sup> The Standard 27 Mar 2023

<sup>47</sup> The Standard 27 Mar 2023

<sup>48</sup> Petroleum and mines ministry, [petroleumandmining.go.ke](http://petroleumandmining.go.ke)

<sup>49</sup> The Standard, 15 Apr 2023

<sup>50</sup> ARC Briefing Source

<sup>51</sup> The Standard, 10 Apr 2023

20-21 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** TEMS Africa Information Communications Technology (ICT) Expo

25-27 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** Africa Savings and Credit Co-Operatives (Saccos) Week

8-9 May 2023 **Mombasa (Kenya)** International Conference on Innovation and Entrepreneurship

18-20 May 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** Solar Africa Expo 2023

31 May-3 Jun 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** International Mining & Mineral Processing Machinery Exhibition (MINEXPO)

5-9 Jun 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** United Nations Habitat assembly

12-14 Jun 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** Africa Hospitality Investment Forum (AHIF)

14-16 Jun 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** Aviation Route Development Conference (AviaDev)

17-19 Jul 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** Kenya Mining Week

4-6 Sep **Nairobi (Kenya)** Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) Climate Action Summit

## Chronology

17 Apr 2023 **Mombasa (Kenya)** *Maritime Executive*. The **Kenya Trade Network Agency (KenTrade)** reports that the electronic portal designed to facilitate faster cargo has been experiencing failure, resulting in a substantial pileup of goods at points of entry clearance;

17 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Ministry of Roads and Transport*. Roads and transport ministry cabinet secretary **Kipchumba Murkomen** states that the temporary closure of a runway at **Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA)** is due to the aborted take-off of a **Singapore Airline**;

17 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Citizen TV*. **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)** selects president **William Ruto** and two other heads of state to restore stability and reconcile warring factions in **Sudan**;

16 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Standard*. **Kenya Airways (KQ)** adjusts flights to and from **Europe** by approximately an hour to cater for rerouting due to the ongoing unrest in **Sudan** that has led **Sudanese Civil Aviation** to ban flights through their airspace;

16 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Kenyans*. Agriculture principal secretary **Kello Harsama** cancels the licences of two Kenyan companies following complaints over the exportation of unripe avocados to **Europe**;

16 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The East African*. Treasury cabinet secretary **Njuguna Ndung'u** states that the treasury is seeking \$1.9 billion in emergency funding from various sources to ease economic pressures;

15 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *State House press release*. President **William Ruto** expresses concern over the crisis in **Sudan** and states that **Kenya** and its **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)** partners are willing to support dialogue and mediation efforts;

15 Apr 2023 **Mombasa (Kenya)** *The Standard*. A ship from **Mozambique** carrying 48,000 tonnes of maize flour docks at **Mombasa port** following president **William Ruto's** 14 April pledge that the cost of maize flour will decrease in the next week;

15 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Kenyans*. After three failed attempts, **United States**-based **Space X** and **Kenya Space Agency (KSA)** launch **Kenya's Taifa 1** satellite from **Vandenberg Air Force Base** in **California (US)**;

14 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Reuters*. Senior foreign affairs official **Korir Sing'oei** calls **United Nations (UN)** deputy secretary-general **Amina Mohammed**'s leaked alleged comments that Ruto was "ruthless" and that she "doesn't trust him" disturbing;

14 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Reuters*. Head of the **International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Africa** department **Abebe Aemro Selassie** says that Kenya is not seen as a debt restructuring candidate despite current strains and a looming bond payment;

13 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. **China** agrees to loan Kenya KSh 38.3 billion (\$286.1m) to expand **Kiambu Road** into a dual carriageway;

13 Apr 2023 **Mombasa (Kenya)** *Citizen Digital*. The first fuel consignment from the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** containing 165,000 metric tonnes of petrol, diesel and jet A-1 fuel worth KSh 20 billion (\$147.6m) docks at the **Kipevu Oil Terminal** in **Mombasa**;

13 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *BBC News*. Kenyan members of parliament (MPs) vote to amend a defence agreement with **Britain** after allegations that troops training in Kenya committed serious crimes in 2012;

12 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Capital News*. Trade and investment cabinet secretary **Moses Kuria** lifts the ban on the exportation of raw macadamia nuts for a period of one year in a bid to open the global markets;

12 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. **International Monetary Fund's** newly published **World Economic Outlook** projects **Kenya's** economy will grow 5.3% in 2023 up from 5.1% forecast in October 2022, and that annual inflation will rise to 7.8% in 2023 from the formerly projected 6.6%

12 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *NTV*. **Kenya Airports Authority (KAA)** confirms that its network was breached in February in a cyberattack by **Medusa ransomware group** which affected the KAA website for several days as the attackers released 514 GB of data including procurement plans, physical plans, site surveys, invoices, and receipts;

12 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Bloomberg*. Government fails to pay civil servants' March salaries on time, as domestic debt and a high public wage bill add pressure to country's finances;

11 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Standard*. **Kenya Union of Clinical Officers** and **Kenya National Union of Nurses** issue a 7-day strike notice due to delayed salary payments;

11 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Star*. Chairperson of president **William Ruto's** economic council **David Ndi** states that the government is extremely wasteful in terms of spending and that "there is not a single day that I am not exasperated by not just how wasteful it is but by how deliberate it is and how unbothered people are";

8 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Insider*. Chairperson of the tourism board, **Francis Gichaba** states that the government aims to attract 10 million foreign tourist arrivals by 2027;

6 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Energy Capital & Power*. Independent power generation company **Milele Energy** secures financing from **United Kingdom**-based emerging markets asset manager **Gemcorp** to help the company fund its bid for a stake in the 310 megawatts **Lake Turkana** project;

5 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Citizen Digital*. **European Investment Bank (EIB)**, the **European Union's (EU)** lending arm, invests KSh 223 billion (\$1.65 billion) in 60 projects across Kenya;

5 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Star*. President **William Ruto** recognises **Rwandan** president **Paul Kagame** for his leadership and contribution to the **East African Community (EAC)**'s peace mission in eastern **DRC**;

5 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. Treasury cabinet secretary **Njuguna Ndung'u** gazettes the **Excise Duty (Excisable Goods Management System) (Amendment) Regulations 2023**

that sets increased fees for 14 categories of excisable goods, including cosmetics, tobacco, fruit juices, and alcohol;

4 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. **Kenyan** newspaper **The Nation's** analysis shows that the weakening of the shilling has raised Kenya's foreign currency debts by at least KSh350.6 billion (\$2.58 billion) since the beginning of 2023;

4 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. The **African Development Bank (AfDB)** raises concerns over **Kenya Electricity Transmission Company's** delays (**Ketraco**) to compensate affected families KSh 64.719m (\$480,868) to pave the way for the completion of a transmission line;

3 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. **Kenya National Bureau of Statistics** reports that unemployment reached 2.97 million in the quarter to December, underscoring labour market woes in the wake of elevated inflation and reduced activity in the dominant agricultural sector;

31 Mar 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. Hotels in **Masai Mara National Reserve** and **Nakuru** country report that the ongoing political crisis is adversely affecting the hospitality sector as travellers cancel plans;

31 Mar 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. Kenya secures KSh50 billion (\$369m) from a consortium of **European** agencies to build a dedicated electric bus lane in Nairobi;

30 Mar 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Capital News*. **Kenya Railways** suspends its services ahead of **Azimio La Umoja One Kenya** coalition party's planned protests;

30 Mar 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Star*. President **William Ruto** announces the signing of a deal for the establishment of a **Moderna** mRNA vaccine facility in Kenya;

30 Mar 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. Assailants take advantage of the **Azimio** demonstrations, storming a newly opened mortuary at the **Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital** and stealing items worth millions of shillings;

29 Mar 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. **Central Bank of Kenya's** Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) increases the benchmark lending rate to 9.5% from 8.75%, the highest level in five years, to curb inflation;

29 Mar 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. **Tea Board of Kenya's** latest data indicates that the value of tea exported to **Russia** decreased from KSh6.2 billion (\$46m) in 2021 to KSh5.1 billion (\$37.89m) in 2022 due to the **Russian-Ukraine war**;

28 Mar 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** overtakes **China** as the largest import source market for **Kenya** by value;

27 Mar 2023 **Berlin (Germany)** *Capital News*. President **William Ruto** meets with **German** president **Frank-Walter Steinmeier** to discuss prioritising the elimination of non-tariff barriers to boost trade;

24 Mar 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. **United Kingdom**-based investment group **United Green Group (UG)** via a local joint venture with local company **Victoria Green Invest** sign an agreement with the government to deliver agri-fin-tech services for rural communities, high-productivity climate-smart farming and state-of-the-art agro-industrial facilities over the next five years;

24 Mar 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. Treasury reveals that president **William Ruto's** **Kenya Kwanza** administration contracted eight new loans worth KSh43.4 billion (\$322.5m) between 1 September to 31 December, to be repaid between 2030 to 2047;

24 Mar 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Standard*. Nairobi high court stops 50 newly appointed Chief Administrative Secretaries (CASs) from assuming office or receiving salaries until a **Law Society of Kenya (LSK)** petition challenging their legality is heard and determined;

24 Mar 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Capital News*. President **William Ruto** starts a three-day development tour of **Kisii, Nyamira** and **Migori** counties where he will launch various development projects;

23 Mar 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Capital News*. Health ministry increases surveillance at all crossing points following the outbreak of the **Marburg Virus Disease (MVD)** in **Tanzania**;

23 Mar 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Standard*. President **William Ruto** presides over the swearing-in of 50 chief administrative secretaries following a communique on 22 March that the CASs would take the oath of office without being vetted by the **National Assembly**;

21 Mar 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Africanews*. A group of 43 **Facebook** moderators fired in January announce they are filing a lawsuit in Kenya against the social network's parent company **Meta** for, among other things, unlawful dismissal;

21 Mar 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. The offices of President **William Ruto**, deputy president **Rigathi Gachagua** and prime cabinet secretary **Musalia Mudavadi** have been allocated KSh 802.2m (\$5.96m) for new vehicles in the current financial year; The increase in recurrent expenditures by KSh87.6 billion (\$650.8m) to KSh1.27 trillion (\$9.43 billion) is at odds with Ruto's previously stated austerity measures.