

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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Kenya Summary 20 January 2023

President William Ruto (2022-present) announces changes on 9 January to the government structure and reassigns responsibilities in a new executive order. Ruto assigns vice president Rigathi Gachagua to oversee reforms in the coffee sector, promising to act on behalf of farmers to rid the industry of cartels. Ruto reveals on 17 January that the chair of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), Wafula Chebukati, was the target of a kidnapping plot during the August 2022 General Elections. He alleges that efforts to intimidate commissioners into rigging the election were orchestrated by the office of former president Uhuru Kenyatta (2013-2022) who favoured opposition leader Raila Odinga. Talks on the construction of the Mau Summit highway stretch of the Northern Corridor Transport Project are expected to restart after Gachagua met with France's ambassador to Kenya, Arnaud Suquet. The construction tender was awarded to the French consortium Vinci Group amidst controversy regarding irregularities in their bid. Kenya's e-mobility sector continues to grow through successful motorbike pilot schemes and a growing presence of battery-swapping programmes. The government's introduction of laws governing the importation of heavy-duty vehicles supports its commitment to reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 2030.

Ruto reorganises government bodies ...

President **William Ruto** (2022-present) issued an executive order on 9 January reorganising the government by splitting ministries, forming new state departments, and assigning/reassigning specific functions. Notable changes to the government organisation are as follows:

- **National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA)** is being transferred from the interior ministry back to the transport ministry;
- Department of housing and urban development and the department of public works is moving from the roads and transport ministry to the land ministry;
- Environment ministry has created separate departments for the environment, climate change and forestry;
- Investment ministry now has three departments for investments promotion, trade, and industry;
- 'Hustler Fund' has been placed under the department for micro, small and medium enterprises.¹

Ruto additionally placed the office of the prime cabinet secretary (PCS), led by **Musalia Mudavadi**, under the executive office of the president, joining deputy president **Rigathi Gachagua**. Ruto also expanded the PCS' mandate, tasking Mudavadi with government delivery services, which replaces the presidential delivery unit formed under former president **Uhuru Kenyatta** (2013-2022).

Mudavadi will also be responsible for chairing the principal secretaries' committees and, in liaison with the interior ministry, overseeing the implementation of government policies, projects and programmes, linking the national government and legislature.²

Gachagua will chair cabinet committees and the **Intergovernmental Budget and Economic Council (IBEC)** and retain the role of managing relations between the executive and legislative levels of

¹ www.president.go.ke, 9 Jan 2023

² Tuko, 10 Jan 2023

government. The role of coordinating, planning and supervising the implementation of development partners' funded projects and programmes also falls under the deputy president's mandate.³

The executive order additionally tasks Gachagua with overseeing the coffee sub-sector reforms implementation standing committee, a move welcomed by stakeholders in the sector including the **National Coffee Cooperative Union (NACCU)**, a group of over 800,000 farmers, who hope the change will expedite reforms in sales and marketing of the commodity.⁴ Kenya produces about 50,000 tonnes of coffee annually and is the 25th largest exporter of Arabica coffee in the world.⁵ Data from the **Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS)** reports that coffee exports between January and October 2022 were valued at KSH 33.8 billion (\$270m). However, the **Nairobi Coffee Exchange** has noted that production declined from an average of 130,000 tonnes in 2000, to 40,000 tonnes in 2021.⁶ During the election campaign, Ruto's **Kenya Kwanza** coalition promised to revamp the coffee, tea and dairy sectors and promised farmers an improved economy under its leadership.⁷

Gachagua has vocally supported the rights of farmers, claiming they could double their earnings if brokers and cartels in the coffee and tea sub-sectors are "*weeded out*".⁸ Coffee growers complained during Kenyatta's administration that cartels were dictating operational terms and were unable to fight back due to government leaders' personal and financial interests in the sector.

Mount Kenya is one of the main coffee-growing regions and, as the largest voting pool in the country, presents a major political battleground. The 2022 election saw allegiances shift from Kenyatta, largely through **Kikuyu** tribal loyalties, to Ruto, who is from the **Kalenjin** tribe. Ruto acknowledged this support at a church service in **Kiambu** county:

*"I appreciate that people of Mt. Kenya have taken me on as one of their sons. They have stood by me through thick and thin and buried ethnicity in the politics of Kenya."*⁹

Reports posted on social media speculate whether Gachagua, who is Kikuyu, has intentions to replace Kenyatta as the Mount Kenya 'kingpin'. Gachagua's placement in the coffee sector could be viewed as a move by Ruto not only to act on his campaign promise to champion farmers (or as he calls them, 'hustlers') against the elite but to further edge out the Kenyatta dynasty.

Ruto's executive order received diverse reactions on a wider scale. Placing Mudavadi under the executive office of the president together with Gachagua could increase political competition between them, but analysts say Ruto's strategy of outlining their specific responsibilities is an attempt to avoid friction.¹⁰ Gachagua and Mudavadi have been at odds over **Nairobi** governor **Johnson Sakaja's** proposal to close nightclubs in residential areas and clear *matatus* (public service vehicles) from areas of the central business district (CBD).¹¹ Mudavadi's support of Sakaja, and Gachagua's opposition, incited opinions from the **Azimio La Umoja (Azimio)** opposition that a "*cold war*" was brewing between the deputy president and PCS.¹²

Supporters of opposition leader **Raila Odinga** have further criticised the executive order as "*poor planning*", with **Vihiga** senator **Godfrey Osofsi** stating that the reorganisation of duties contradicts the principle of separation of powers.¹³ Lawyer and political analyst **Javas Bigambo** expressed that the organisation and reorganisation of the government is the president's prerogative and that opinions that Ruto has misappropriated his lawful powers "*are simply incorrect*".¹⁴

³ Citizen Digital, 9 Jan 2023

⁴ Business Daily, 13 Jan 2023

⁵ www.oec.world

⁶ The Star, 17 Jan 2023

⁷ The Nation, 22 Dec 2022

⁸ The Nation, 12 Jan 2023

⁹ The Citizen, 14 Aug 2022

¹⁰ Tuko, 10 Jan 2023

¹¹ Citizen Digital, 9 Jan 2023

¹² The Star, 17 Jan 2023

¹³ The Nation, 11 Jan 2023

¹⁴ The Nation, 11 Jan 2023

... and reveals coordinated attempts to sabotage August 2022 general election

Ruto, during a speech at **State House** on 17 January, alleged that there was a plot to abduct and kill **Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC)** chair **Wafula Chebukati** during the August 2022 general election, which saw a tightly contested race and subsequent challenges to official results.¹⁵

Chebukati, whose six-year tenure as chairperson ended on 17 January, gave a subsequent speech, calling on the president to conduct an independent inquiry into the election process and the “*great attempts to undermine [the IEBC’s] independence and usurp its powers*”.¹⁶ The IEBC’s post-election evaluation report states that the IEBC endured intimidation by security organs and disinformation campaigns while commissioners were subject to ethnic profiling, arrests and assaults.¹⁷ Fellow outgoing IEBC commissioners **Abdi Guliye** and **Boya Molu** corroborated Chebukati’s accounts of widespread insecurity experienced by the commission during the election.¹⁸

During the election, the IEBC was split. Four commissioners, led by vice chairperson **Juliana Cherera**, disowned the results that named Ruto as president, referring to them as “*opaque*”.¹⁹ Ruto ordered the suspension and an investigative tribunal of the four on 2 December and three of the commissioners subsequently resigned, leaving only the fourth, **Irene Masit**, to participate in the tribunal. Hearings began in late December and are yet to conclude, however, Masit has not attended, citing security concerns.²⁰

Ruto’s announcement of the plot to abduct Chebukati adds fuel to his claims that there were evil forces at play during the election. This plot, he stated, was sanctioned by the highest office and sought to infiltrate the IEBC by installing “*four sleeper commissioners*” whose sole task was to “*lie in wait for the election, then spring into action and take drastic actions to subvert the will of the people*”.²¹ Ruto further alleged that techniques such as bribery, blackmail, extortion and other methods of intimidation were involved.²² Although Ruto does not mention him by name, the accusation that the “*highest office*” was involved in the plot implies the involvement of Kenyatta, who ardently supported Odinga.

The 2022 election is not the first time IEBC commissioners have felt under threat. Former commissioner **Roselyn Akombe** fled Kenya for the **United States** in October 2017, resigning one week before the presidential elections re-run between Kenyatta and Odinga. Akombe claimed that she was under “*political siege*” and receiving anonymous death threats.²³ Weeks prior, election official **Chris Msando**, who was responsible for the computerised voting system, was found tortured and killed.²⁴ In the recent election, senior IEBC officer **Daniel Mbolu Musyoka** was allegedly abducted from a tallying centre and later found tortured and killed in a forest.²⁵

Ruto’s decision to announce the alleged plot to kidnap Chebukati was critically received around the country. Politicians have been quick to point out that Ruto’s speech is only useful if followed by decisive action to find the individuals responsible and hold them accountable. **Dadaab MP Farah Maalim** stated:

*“Authenticity of [Ruto’s] statement needs to be verified in an open court. Justice has got to prevail in this case regardless of who was involved.”*²⁶

¹⁵ Capital News, 17 Jan 2023

¹⁶ The Nation, 17 Jan 2023

¹⁷ The Nation, 17 Jan 2023

¹⁸ Citizen Digital, 17 Jan 2023

¹⁹ Africa Centre for Strategic Studies, 7 Sep 2022

²⁰ Citizen Digital, 21 Dec 2022

²¹ Daybreak Africa, Voice of America, 18 Jan 2022; The Nation, 17 Dec 2022

²² The Nation, 17 Jan 2023

²³ BBC News, 18 Oct 2017

²⁴ BBC News, 2 Aug 2017

²⁵ Africa Centre for Strategic Studies, 7 Sep 2022

²⁶ The Star, 19 Jan 2023

Law Society of Kenya president **Eric Theuri** claims that attempts at an independent and unbiased investigation into the incident may not be possible, as Ruto's sentiments may put the **Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI)** or even a commission of inquiry under pressure to agree with him.²⁷ A local source, who was present at the 17 January meeting, expressed to **Africa Risk Consulting Briefing (ARC Briefing)** that Chebukati's speech was directed by Ruto under political motivations.

Azimio also stated in a press conference on 18 January that a whistle-blower from the IEBC has revealed evidence of fraud and manipulation in the elections, particularly in the Mount Kenya region, convoluting matters further. Documents provided by the anonymous whistle-blower allege that Odinga garnered 57.3% of the votes while Ruto had 41.66%.²⁸

Ruto's motivation behind announcing the alleged plot and inciting media speculation is unclear. He had just returned from a tour in Odinga's stronghold **Nyanza** where the government launch of development projects was warmly welcomed by elected Azimio leaders from the county. Although the development of a relationship between the two mirroring Kenyatta's relationship with Odinga – former opponent turned friend – has been dismissed, a cessation of hostilities between Ruto and Odinga was hinted at when the latter asked Nyanza leaders to welcome the president on his tour.²⁹ Ruto has pledged to work with all leaders irrespective of their political affiliation to transform the economy.³⁰ It is still the early days of Ruto's presidency but recent events seem to indicate that hostilities between the leaders are far from over and are set to continue.

Fresh talks on Mau Summit Highway hint that stalled projects may soon resume

Fresh talks between **France's** ambassador to Kenya, **Arnaud Suquet**, and vice president Gachagua on 16 January indicate that negotiations on the construction of the KSh 160 billion (\$1.28 billion) **Mau Summit Highway** may resume despite early January reports that Ruto's administration had placed them on hold.³¹ Initiated by Kenyatta in 2018, and procured by **Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA)**, the construction of the 233-km **Nairobi-Nakuru-Mau Summit** toll road would improve a key route into western Kenya. It is part of the **Northern Corridor Transport Improvement Project** to increase trade and regional integration, cargo haulage and road efficiency while reducing congestion.³²

KeNHA believes the Northern Corridor is a crucial transport corridor in **East and Central Africa** and provides a route from **Mombasa Port** to **Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan** and the eastern **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**. The Mau Summit section currently carries approximately 20,000 vehicles per day with traffic increasing at an annual rate of 4%.³³ KeNHA plans to expand the existing road into a tolled four-lane dual carriageway through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.³⁴

Ruto's initial decision to halt the project was reportedly due to the Kenyatta administration's award of the construction tender to the French consortium **Vinci Group**. The contract outlines that the consortium will build the road and own it for 30 years while the government collects toll fees from motorists to repay costs.³⁵ The consortium reported readiness to break ground on the project in July 2022 after the **Africa Development Bank (AfDB)** approved financing of \$150m but has been on hold while awaiting Ruto's approval. It was revealed during the financial evaluation stages that the consortium had committed an irregularity in computing income taxes for their bid.³⁶ The PPP review

²⁷ Citizen Digital, 18 Jan 2023

²⁸ NTV, 18 Jan 2023

²⁹ Tuko, 13 Jan 2023

³⁰ Tuko, 13 Jan 2023

³¹ KBC, 16 Jan 2023

³² www.projects.worldbank.org

³³ The Nation, 16 Jan 2023

³⁴ www.kenha.co.ke

³⁵ The Africa Report, 17 Jan 2023

³⁶ The Africa Report, 17 Jan 2023

committee directed KeNHA to stop procurement and restart tender evaluations, but KeNHA reported that the irregularity was minor and dismissed it as a “*computational error*”.³⁷

Ruto stated in November that he has stalled road projects due to funding and because “*the work needs a new plan and new brains*.”³⁸ Under Kenyatta, public debt surged in part due to an infrastructure drive, but Ruto has been adamant about Kenya not defaulting on its debt. Political and governance analyst **Suba Churchill** claims Ruto’s change of heart on the project arose out of the need for fresh talks under his government’s terms, believing that the contract was awarded out of personal interest from officials in Kenyatta’s administration.³⁹

Although the recent talks between Gachagua and Suquet did not result in concrete details about the project’s resumption, French trade minister **Oliver Becht** will lead a delegation of businessmen, companies and investors to Kenya in February, when terms and viability of the project are expected to be discussed.⁴⁰ If the project gains traction, it is a positive indication that negotiations of other stalled projects may resume.

Strict government environmental policies push expansion of E-mobility sector

Nairobi’s **Trademark Hotel**, a member of the **Design Hotels Group** and subsidiary of US **Marriott International**, launched its new fleet of **Nissan** leaf electric vehicles (EVs) on 9 January to be utilised for guest transfers.⁴¹ The cars are part of a larger sustainability initiative by **Village Market and Tribe Hotels Group**, to which Trademark belongs, to contribute to Kenya’s **Vision 2030** target of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 3.46 metric tonnes.⁴² This launch follows a recent announcement by **Kenya Electricity Generation Company (KenGen)** regarding an e-mobility campaign through which KenGen will acquire more EVs and install 30 EV charging stations across Kenya in 2023 as part of its ten-year strategy to add 3,000 megawatts (MW) to the power grid.⁴³ **Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC)** estimates that the utility generates enough electricity to charge two million electric vehicles a day.⁴⁴ KPLC acting manager **Geoffrey Muli** explained:

“With an installed electricity capacity of 3,077MW and an off-peak load of 1,100MW, Kenya has enough power to support the entire e-mobility ecosystem.”⁴⁵

Kenya has seen a revolution in the e-mobility sector and there are currently over 15 start-ups working in the electric motorbike sector.⁴⁶ Motorbikes are one of the most popular modes of transport in the country with over 1.2 million riders, 90% of whom use bikes for commercial purposes.⁴⁷ A March survey by **Car & General** indicates that the motorbike sector provides one million direct jobs for riders and generates \$10m per day, contributing to 3.4% of gross domestic product (GDP).⁴⁸

Kenyan EV start-up company **Ecobodaa** currently has 50 test electric motorbikes on the road and plans to have 1,000 by the end of the year. Ecobodaa CEO **Kimosop Chepkoit** says that over a three-month pilot programme, riders saved 36% on daily fuel costs, 75% on repairs, and 90% on servicing, contributing to significant savings for them.⁴⁹

³⁷ The Nation, 16 Jan 2023

³⁸ The Star, 18 Nov 2022

³⁹ The Africa Report, 17 Jan 2023

⁴⁰ KBC, 16 Jan 2023

⁴¹ Capital FM, 10 Jan 2023

⁴² Business Daily, 9 Jan 2023

⁴³ The Star, 5 Jan 2023; Capital FM, 5 Jan 2023

⁴⁴ Citizen Digital, 26 Dec 2022

⁴⁵ The Star, 27 Sep 2022

⁴⁶ Tech Crunch, 29 Nov 2022

⁴⁷ Business Daily, 11 Mar 2022

⁴⁸ Quartz, 31 Aug 2022

⁴⁹ Clean Technica, 14 Nov 2022

EV sales in **Africa** are the lowest worldwide despite the continent's overall sales increase in recent years.⁵⁰ There are an estimated 350 EVs in Kenya and about 29 public charging points, although most of these are still in the piloting phase and heavily concentrated in and around Nairobi.⁵¹ A popular alternative to charging which has been visibly gaining traction in the city is battery-swapping stations, where riders can exchange a drained Lithium-Ion battery for a new one. This system not only saves time but also allows motorbike buyers to reduce costs as many sellers such as Ecobodaa and **Kiri Electric** follow a model whereby the buyer purchases the bike for \$1,500 but the company retains ownership of the battery which, if included in the cost, would effectively double the sale price.⁵²

The market for e-vehicles is not limited to two-wheelers. **Nairobi Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (NAMATA)** announced a tender in February 2022 for the supply of Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) buses based on biodiesel, hybrid and electric technology.⁵³ A few different companies won tenders, but no buses have been purchased, likely due to the elections and Ruto's subsequent goal to reassess infrastructural decisions. The two main competitors vying for dominance in the mass transit sector are Kenyan start-up **BasiGo** and **Swedish-Kenyan Roam** (formerly **Opibus**).

Increasing government regulation of carbon emissions is a key influencer in the growing EV industry. **Kenyan Bureau of Standards (Kebs)** introduced a ban from 1 July on the importation of trucks and other heavy-duty vehicles greater than 3.5 tonnes and over three years old.⁵⁴ While this will drive the government closer to achieving its 2030 goals and reducing pollution, many trucks are owned by individuals who will be unable to afford newer vehicles and be run out of competition by larger logistics companies.⁵⁵ While the cost of running electric vehicles could be cheaper, especially with a battery-sharing system, the acquisition costs remain prohibitive to most Kenyans. However, Kenya is East Africa's regional leader in adopting EVs and the readiness of the government to explore options for public transport as well as the thriving start-up climate for e-mobility companies presents a wide range of opportunities to explore the e-mobility market.

⁵⁰ Globe Newswire, 22 Dec 2022

⁵¹ The Star, 9 Jan 2022

⁵² Reuters, 26 Dec 2022

⁵³ The Star, 2 Feb 2022

⁵⁴ The Nation, 9 Jan 2023

⁵⁵ BBC Africa Daily podcast, 10 Jan 2023

Planner

15-16 Feb 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya) Africa Tech Summit**

21-22 Feb 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya) European Union-Kenya Business Forum**

2-3 Mar 2022 **Nairobi (Kenya) KE Climate Change Summit**

15-16 Mar 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya) East Africa Energy, Oil & Gas Summit & Exhibition (EAOGS)**

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

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

Chronology

20 Jan 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya) Business Daily. Mauritian conglomerate IBL Group** announces plans to enter Kenya's construction, agrochemicals, consumer goods distribution and reinsurance industries through its subsidiaries **BrandActiv, Blychem, Elgeo Re, and CMH**;

19 Jan 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya) The Star. President William Ruto's** government unveils its first budget policy statement, which sets out the priority programmes, policies and reforms that the administration will implement;

19 Jan 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya) People Daily. The shilling** depreciates further against the dollar, trading at KSh124 to \$1;

18 Jan 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya) People Daily. I&M Burbidge Capital** report shows that Kenya is the regional leader in private equity deals and that out of 132 private equity deals in **East Africa**, Kenya had 97 deals worth \$1.35 billion;

18 Jan 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya) Business Daily. Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA)** discloses that fines to insurers for various breaches, including late payment of claims and failure to submit audited accounts, tripled to Ksh 56.9m (\$454,939) in 2021;

18 Jan 2023 **Malindi (Kenya) Business Daily. Environment and Land Court** orders mining cabinet secretary **Salim Mvurya** to allow salt harvesting companies including **Kensalt Salt Limited** to continue operating;

17 Jan 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya) The Star. European Union (EU) ambassador to Kenya, Henriette Geiger,** says **EU Commission** has pledged to support agricultural productivity in Kenya by supporting government initiatives on food security and extending support to local small-scale farmers to improve their incomes and food production;

16 Jan 2023 **Mogadishu (Somalia) Business Daily. Somalia** raises the cap of Kenyan exports of miraa (khat) from 19 tonnes a day to 50, a lucrative export for Kenya;

15 Jan 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya) The Nation. President William Ruto** appoints former **Kinango** member of parliament **Benjamin Dalu Tayari** as chair of **Kenya Ports Authority (KPA)** for three years;

14 Jan 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya) Business Insider. United States-based Starlink** announces plans to launch in Kenya in Q2 2023, pending regulatory approval and says Kenyans can currently pre-order and deposit a fully refundable amount of Sh12,260 (\$99) to reserve the service if approved;

13 Jan 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya) Reuters. Centum Investment Co. Plc** says it had ended a pact with **Nigeria's Access Bank** to sell its 83.4% shareholding worth Sh4.3 billion (\$35m) in Kenya's **Sidian Bank**, as the timeframe for completion of the transaction had lapsed;

11 Jan 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya) Business Daily. Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (Epra)** indicates that Kenya added 102.34 megawatts (MW) to its installed capacity for

electricity generation in the 2021/22 financial year boosting installed capacity to 3,074MW as of June 2022;

11 Jan 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Kenyans*. **United Kingdom** ambassador to Kenya **Jane Marriott** hosts **Azimio** party leader **Raila Odinga** to discuss the importance of effective opposition in Kenya, UK's development programmes in Kenya and agree to consult on a regular basis to discuss matters of national and mutual interest;

10 Jan 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Nation*. Real estate company **Lesedi Developers** has left many Kenyans with bank loans to repay after selling to them non-existent plots;

9 Jan 2023 **Mombasa (Kenya)** *People Daily*. **Azimio la Umoja One Kenya** party leader **Raila Odinga** calls for dialogue with President **William Ruto** over proposed key constitutional changes;

9 Jan 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Capital News*. Deputy president **Rigathi Gachagua** hosts the vice president of **Sudan's** transitional sovereignty council, General **Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo**, to discuss economic cooperation;

6 Jan 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Standard*. President **William Ruto** has claimed that the military was involved in a plot to cheat him out of the presidency in the 2022 elections;

6 Jan 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. Health ministry announces Kenya missed its **Covid-19** vaccination target for 2022 by 4.1 million doses amid an increasing struggle to convince the unvaccinated to go for the shot;

6 Jan 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Nation*. **Kenya Electricity Generating Company PLC (KenGen)** announces plans to scale up the deployment of renewable energy in the country by adding 3,000 megawatts (MW), with 2,000MW drawn from geothermal and hydro sources;

5 Jan 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Star*. Nairobi governor **Johnson Sakaja** says the **Northern Collector Water**, financed by the **French Development Agency** at a cost of Ksh 8.2 billion (\$66.5m), will launch on 25 February and is set to pump 140 million litres of water daily into Nairobi;

5 Jan 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The East African*. **Dadaab** town member of parliament **Farah Maalim** denies claims by **Somaliland** president **Muse Bihi** that he incited violence in the disputed **Las Anod region** of the self-declared independent region of **Somalia**;

5 Jan 2023 **Washington (United States)** *United States Department of State Press Release*. **United States Department of State** offers a financial reward of up to \$10m for information leading to the arrest or conviction of **Maalim Ayman** or any individual who committed, attempted, or conspired to commit, or aided or abetted in the commission of the 5 January 2020 terrorist attack on US and Kenyan personnel at the **Manda Bay Airfield** in Kenya;

5 Jan 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Star*. County government budget implementation review shows **Nairobi County** may have its assets auctioned or seized as city hall's debt exceeded KSh100 billion (\$799m);

5 Jan 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Anadolu Agency*. President **William Ruto** clarifies that the dismissal of former **Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI)** head **George Kinoti** in September was due to a rise in enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings;

5 Jan 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Nation*. National assembly finance and planning committee chairman **Kuria Kimani** confirms investigations on the construction and operations of the **Nairobi Expressway** project will resume on 14 February;

4 Jan 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Al Jazeera*. Trading of national airline **Kenya Airways** shares on the **Nairobi Stock Exchange (NSE)** has been suspended for a further 12 months as the airline strives to return to profitability;

3 Jan 2023 **Nairobi Kenya** *Business Daily*. **Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS)** indicates that maize imports in the first nine months of 2022 more than doubled to 519,611.30 tonnes following a drop in the production of the cereal due to drought;

3 Jan 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Africa Report*. President **William Ruto** says he will not bow to pressure from the public and opposition to re-introduce subsidies on commodities like food, fuel and electricity;

1 Jan 2023 **Lamu (Kenya)** *Garowe Online*. **Al-Shabaab** militants target **Kenya Defence Forces (KDF)** in an IED incident leaving one soldier dead and five injured;

30 Dec 2022 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Reuters*. **Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS)** announces that economic growth slowed to 4.7% in Q3 2022, down from 9.3% in Q3 2021;

29 Dec 2022 **Lamu (Kenya)** *Capital FM*. Four people, including two **Italian** women, are rescued in an operation mounted by the **General Service Unit (GSU)**, **Rapid Deployment Unit** and the **Kenya Defence Forces (KDF)** after **Al-Shabaab** militants took them hostage at a fake checkpoint;

29 Dec 2022 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *North Africa Post*. National airline **Kenya Airways** reportedly owes \$37.5m to the **Kenya Airports Authority (KAA)** as of 30 June 2022;

27 Dec 2022 **Dubai (United Arab Emirates)** *Kenyans.co.ke*. Trade cabinet secretary **Moses Kuria** announces mutual agreements between Kenya and the **Dubai Chamber of Commerce** which are expected to increase trade and investment exchanges between the two countries;

25 Dec 2022 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Garowe Online*. **Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK)** grants **Aramco Overseas Company**, the investment arm of **Saudi Aramco**, permission to enter the Kenyan market through the acquisition of **United States** motor oil and lubricants group **Valvoline**;

23 Dec 2022 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. Attorney general **Justin Muturi** clears regulations seeking to unlock the sharing of more than Ksh7.5 billion (\$59.9m) in mineral royalties currently locked away at the treasury;

22 Dec 2022 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Reuters*. Finance ministry announces intentions to seek \$900m in external commercial financing for the remaining six months of the financial year;

22 Dec 2022 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Al Jazeera*. **Al-Shabaab** militants attack a police vehicle travelling to **Garissa (Garissa County)** killing two and injuring others with an explosive device and rocket-propelled grenade launcher and gunfire;

21 Dec 2022 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. **Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime (GI-TOC)** report shows that **Mombasa Port** and the cargo handling airport in **Eldoret** are major nodes for cocaine imports;

21 Dec 2022 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *European Investment Bank*. **European Investment Bank's (EIB's)** 2022 climate survey shows that 97% of Kenyan respondents say climate change is already affecting their everyday life and 76% believe that climate change and environmental damage have affected their income or source of livelihood;

20 Dec 2022 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *People Daily*. **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** executive board approves a \$447.39m disbursement to Kenya following a review of the country's Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and Extended Credit Facility (ECF) arrangement;

20 Dec 2022 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Star*. President **William Ruto** meets with the **Chinese** ambassador to Kenya, **Zhou Pingjian**, emphasising Kenya's commitment to strengthening its mutually beneficial bilateral relations with China;

17 Dec 2022 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. **Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)** records a 10.2% growth in revenue collection for the first five months of the current financial year, driven by new tax measures and positive economic recovery;

17 Dec 2022 **Laikipia (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. **United Kingdom** government commences a fresh round of lobbying as it seeks to renew the **Defence Cooperation Agreement (DCA)** amidst opposition from some **Laikipia** residents.

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