

## AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

### Kenya Monthly Briefing May 2023

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#### Kenya Summary 17 May 2023

*National treasury submits the Finance Bill 2023 to parliament on 28 April. The bill proposes sweeping changes to Kenya's revenue collection and places a heavy burden on low to middle-earners. Opposition leader Raila Odinga is likely to use the tax increases to mobilise public grievances against the government. President William Ruto (2022-current) intensifies his international campaign as he seeks global investment partners. Ruto shows closer political and economic alignment to the West and presents Kenya as a beacon of stability in the East African region and wider African continent. Police exhume 211 bodies from Shakahola Forest in their ongoing investigation into Paul Mackenzie's alleged order that followers of his Good News International Church starve themselves to death. The cult raises questions about the government's regulation of extremist Christian religious leaders.*

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#### Proposed tax policies place heavy burden on low to middle earners

National treasury submitted the **Finance Bill 2023** to the national assembly on 28 April where it was tabled on 4 May for parliament's consideration and enactment into the **Finance Act**. The bill introduces sweeping changes to tax policies in line with president **William Ruto's** (2022-current) goal to expand Kenya's tax base and raise revenues to meet the government's proposed 2023/24 budget of KSh3.6 trillion (\$26.08 billion). Kenyans have until 20 May to submit their opinions on the bill before it is debated in parliament.

The bill states that the policy target is to increase revenues to 17.8% of GDP in the 2023/24 financial year and above 18% of GDP in the medium term, with the **Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)** tasked with collecting KSh3 trillion (\$21.7 billion) in the 2023/24 financial year.<sup>1</sup> A source told **Africa Risk Consulting Briefing (ARC Briefing)** that they are unsure whether KRA agents are capable of shouldering this burden and expect that the government will encounter difficulties in enforcing regulations, particularly as KRA's newly introduced electronic tax portal itax is unreliable.<sup>2</sup>

Ruto has repeatedly expressed his government's intention to stabilise Kenya's struggling economy which he blames on former president **Uhuru Kenyatta's** (2013-2022) international borrowing. In December, Kenya's debt stood at KSh 9.14 trillion (\$71.4 billion), amounting to 67% of the GDP, of which 51% (\$37.8 billion) was due to foreign borrowing. While the current government's tax proposals intend to decrease the amount of public debt, it has been met with opposition throughout society. Since publication, criticisms of the proposed tax changes have dominated news and social media with outrage predominately concentrated on the proposed increase of value added tax (VAT) on fuel and petroleum products from 8% to 16%. Another contentious proposal is that public sector employees will need to contribute 3% of their monthly salary to the **National Housing Development Fund**.<sup>3</sup>

Fuel prices reached a historic high on 14 May following the complete removal of Kenyatta's subsidies - petrol presently retails at KSh 182.70 (\$1.32) and diesel at KSh 168.40 (\$1.22).<sup>4</sup> If the proposed 16% VAT is implemented it will further increase prices which will strongly impact consumers. Much of the burden will fall onto Kenyans who use public transport. The proposed housing levy was similarly

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<sup>1</sup> The Standard, 6 May 2023

<sup>2</sup> ARC Briefing Sources

<sup>3</sup> Daily Nation, 11 May 2023

<sup>4</sup> Business Daily, 15 May 2023

attacked by observers. Economist and former **Laikipia** governor **Nderitu Muriithi** explained that the public has a lot of scepticism about such funds due to previous cases of corruption and scandal. It was estimated in 2019 that Ksh140.2 billion (\$1.4 billion) worth of government funds were siphoned off by corrupt government officials.<sup>5</sup> Ruto dismissed public health principal secretary **Josephine Mburu**, the entire **Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA)** board, and KEMSA CEO **Terry Ramadhani** on 15 May over allegations of corruption in KEMSA's management and administration of anti-malarial programmes.<sup>6</sup> Kenyans further view the levy as discriminatory and question why those who may not need a house would be obliged to contribute to the fund. Muriithi noted that underlying problems contributing to Kenya's housing problem such as the lack of inclusive mortgage financing and inflated construction costs are overlooked.<sup>7</sup> The housing fund, therefore, is interpreted as a superficial fix to a more complex issue.

**Raila Odinga**, the leader of the **Azimio la Umoja–One Kenya Coalition Party (Azimio)** and Ruto's political adversary, has used the cost-of-living crisis as a motivator for Kenyans to join his protests against Ruto's **Kenya Kwanza** led government. Although Ruto's presidential campaign focused on empowering the workers at the bottom of the pyramid, Odinga has emphasised that they will be the ones hit the most by the proposed taxes. Odinga's **Orange Democratic Party (ODM)** has called the finance bill a "*piece of punishment*" and that the "*tsunami of taxes...will bury everyone in this country*"<sup>8</sup>

The cost of living remains a popular tool for mobilisation and Odinga is likely to continue to use it to pressure Ruto to accept some of his demands. Although Ruto has been staunchly reluctant to concede to any of Azimio's demands, his approval to hold bipartisan talks between the parties suggests that he can be swayed. The risk of political unrest remains high as Odinga keeps the threat of calling for a resumption of protests in his back pocket.

### Ruto's international charm offensive paying off

Ruto has scaled up his international campaign to boost Kenya's presence in global affairs, meeting with several dignitaries and heads of state in the last month with the aims of increasing foreign trade and investment and positioning himself as a leader in the global economic stage. His efforts appear to be working as leaders have commended Kenya for contributing to regional stability, for leading the continent in renewable energy, and have recognised Ruto's commitment to restoring economic stability and attracting investment. In the first two weeks of May Ruto's calendar was loaded with high-level meetings both in Kenya and abroad.

- 1 May - Ruto spoke with **United States (US)** secretary of state **Antony Blinken** to discuss collective international action to end the fighting in **Sudan**.<sup>9</sup>
- 2 May - Ruto met with **Canadian** foreign minister **Melanie Joly** to discuss expanding job opportunities for Kenyans in Canada. Ruto stated that the government will align health workers' training with Canadian curricula to improve graduates' ease of transitioning into the foreign job market.<sup>10</sup>
- 3 May - Ruto met with **Japan's** prime minister **Fumio Kishida** (2021-present) to discuss strengthening cooperation in decarbonization, infrastructure development and bolstering economic ties.<sup>11</sup>
- 3 May - Ruto met with **United Nations (UN)** Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres** to discuss the humanitarian situation in Sudan.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>5</sup> The East African, 15 Nov 2020

<sup>6</sup> Business Daily 15 May 2023

<sup>7</sup> Which will be further affected by a proposed increase in tax on imported cement clinker.

<sup>8</sup> ODM party Twitter, 8 May 2023

<sup>9</sup> US Department of State, State.gov, 1 May 2023

<sup>10</sup> Kenyans, 2 May 2023

<sup>11</sup> Japan Times, 4 May 2023

<sup>12</sup> Capital FM. 3 May 2023

- 4 May - Ruto met with **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** managing director **Kristalina Georgieva** who stated that Kenya is on the “*right track*” towards economic recovery. She elaborated that the government’s “*dynamism of investment, prudent fiscal measures, and transparency in governance have set the country on the path of success.*”<sup>13</sup>
- 4 May - Ruto met with **World Trade Organization (WTO)** director general **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala** to discuss the digital economy, trade finance, and the implementation of the **Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)**.<sup>14</sup>
- 5 May - Ruto met with **German** chancellor **Olaf Scholz** and formulated a deal to facilitate the migration of professionals, skilled workers, and semi-skilled Kenyans to Germany.<sup>15</sup> Scholz also pledged Germany’s support for Kenya’s clean energy goals by committing to fund the expansion of the **Olkaria Geothermal Station** to increase its capacity.<sup>16</sup>
- 6 May - Ruto attended the coronation of **United Kingdom’s King Charles III in London (UK)** where he supplemented his visit by hosting a business forum. Ruto reportedly engaged with **Jim Messina**, former US deputy chief of staff and founder of **The Messina Group (TMG)**, whom Messina previously advised former US president **Barack Obama (2009-2017)**. TMG advised Kenyatta.<sup>17</sup> Ruto also met with UK headquartered **Globeleq CEO Michael Scholey**, whose company in January secured KSh8.9 billion (\$64.48m) to develop a 35-megawatt power plant in **Nakuru**.<sup>18</sup>
- 8 May - Ruto visited **The Hague (The Netherlands)** for the first time since 2013 when the **International Criminal Court (ICC)** dropped charges against him for crimes against humanity during the aftermath of the 2007 Kenyan elections.<sup>19</sup> Ruto met with **King Willem-Alexander** of The Netherlands to discuss enhancing trade in horticultural, livestock, tea, and coffee, fruits, vegetables, fish, and tobacco.<sup>20</sup> The Netherlands is Kenya’s largest trade partner in the **European Union (EU)** and in 2021 exports from Kenya to the Netherlands were valued at \$562.45m.<sup>21</sup>
- 9-10 May - Ruto met with **Israel’s** president **Isaac Herzog (2021-present)** and prime minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** in **Jerusalem** where they discussed improving the low trade volume between the countries. The leaders agreed to deepen cooperation, enhance connectivity, and broaden the variety of Kenya’s exports. The leaders also discussed intentions to eliminate barriers to movement to expand the trade and investment potential.<sup>22</sup>

Ruto is not the only government official on the international scene working to expand bilateral ties. Trade and industry cabinet minister **Moses Kuria** visited **Indonesia** on 13 May where he met with Indonesian maritime affairs and investment minister **Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan** and signed a deal bolstering trade and investment cooperation.<sup>23</sup> Business and political ties are expected to be further strengthened when Indonesian president **Joko Widodo (2014-present)** visits Kenya in July.<sup>24</sup>

Deputy president **Rigathi Gachagua** held talks with **Colombian** vice president **Francía Elena Márquez Mina** on 14 May to explore greater collaboration in agriculture, environment conservation, science and technology, culture, and education. Ruto has tasked Gachagua with reforming the coffee

<sup>13</sup> President.go.ke, 4 May 2023

<sup>14</sup> Kenyans, 4 May 2023

<sup>15</sup> Business Insider, 5 May 2023

<sup>16</sup> NTV, 6 May 2023

<sup>17</sup> Kenyans, 5 April 2023

<sup>18</sup> Kenyans, 8 May 2023

<sup>19</sup> BBC News, 5 April 2016

<sup>20</sup> Business Daily, 12 May 2023

<sup>21</sup> UN COMTRADE database

<sup>22</sup> The Star, 9 May 2023

<sup>23</sup> The Standard, 13 May 2023

<sup>24</sup> The Standard, 13 May 2023

sector and the deputy president announced that he will lead a large delegation to **Bogota** (Columbia) to learn from Colombia's successes.<sup>25</sup>

Through these international engagements, it appears that Ruto is committed to aligning Kenya politically and economically closer to the West. Ruto previously expressed intentions to disengage from Kenyatta's perceived overreliance on **China** and, considering the US' recent accusation that **South Africa** delivered arms and ammunition to a sanctioned **Russian** cargo vessel in December 2022, Kenya provides the West with a more stable investment destination.<sup>26</sup>

### Government's ability to regulate extremist religion and leaders questioned

Police in **Kilifi County** continue their search and rescue operations in the 800-acre **Shakahola Forest** where, to date, 211 bodies have been exhumed since the beginning of an investigation on 21 April.<sup>27</sup> Authorities believe that the bodies belong to followers of **Paul Mackenzie**, the leader of the **Good News International Church**, whom police have accused of ordering his followers to starve their children and themselves to death so they ascend to heaven before the world ends.<sup>28</sup> Police have detained 26 people over the deaths and prosecutor **Vivian Kambaga** told journalists on 1 May that the case would be tried at the **Mombasa** high court where the suspects will face terrorism charges.<sup>29</sup>

Police also arrested and questioned high-profile televangelist pastor **Ezekiel Odera** of **New Life Prayer Centre and Church** on 27 April over his relationship with Mackenzie.<sup>30</sup> Odera is hugely popular and his church and videos draw thousands of worshippers.<sup>31</sup> The government froze over 25 bank accounts and a mobile money **MPesa** account linked to Odera after his arrest. Despite this, he told his followers to continue sending money to him and that they were now engaged in "a religious war."<sup>32</sup> Interior cabinet secretary (CS) **Kithure Kindiki** replied:

*We have no war [with] religion or church, but anybody who thinks they can hide behind a church, mosque or synagogue will face the law.*<sup>33</sup>

Ruto announced the formation of two task forces on 5 May - a commission of inquiry to investigate the circumstances that led to the 'Shakahola massacre', and a task force to review the legal and regulatory framework governing religious organisations. The latter team is tasked with identifying gaps in the legal, institutional and governance systems that have allowed cults and extremist groups to operate, and submit proposals on how the public can report on such cases.<sup>34</sup> **Ben Wamigathe**, a pastor from **The Last Minute Christian Church**, called for the government to go further and audit all religious leaders to establish their source of wealth.<sup>35</sup> While some religious organisations have supported the government's initiatives, others have criticised the collective scrutiny of churches, stating that only the rogue churches should be held individually accountable.<sup>36</sup>

Earlier this year, police arrested Mackenzie on suspicion of the murder of two children but was later released on bail.<sup>37</sup> During a media interview, Ruto acknowledged that laxity in government agencies may have contributed to the number of lives lost. However, he also denounced the **National Intelligence Service (NIS)**, **Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI)** and **National Police**

<sup>25</sup> The Star, 15 May 2023

<sup>26</sup> CNN, 12 May 2023

<sup>27</sup> The Standard, 16 May 2023

<sup>28</sup> Reuters, 13 May 2023

<sup>29</sup> The East African, 2 May 2023

<sup>30</sup> Nairobi News, 27 April 2023

<sup>31</sup> Daily Nation, 28 April 2023

<sup>32</sup> The Africa Report, 11 May 2023

<sup>33</sup> The Africa Report, 11 May 2023

<sup>34</sup> The East African, 10 May 2023

<sup>35</sup> The Africa Report, 11 May 2023

<sup>36</sup> The Star, 13 May 2023

<sup>37</sup> Reuters, 12 May

**Service** area chiefs and community elders for failing to report on the cult's activities despite knowledge of it going on.<sup>38</sup>

Religion plays an important role in most Kenyan's lives. Over 4,000 churches are registered in the country and larger-than-life pastors are not unusual.<sup>39</sup> Religion is deeply intertwined with politics and on his election, media reported Ruto as the country's first evangelical Christian president.<sup>40</sup> Religion played a key role in his election campaign, and he often carries out many of his public addresses at churches.

Deputy president Gachagua's wife **Dorcas Rigathi** is a pastor and following the government's announcement of the task forces she accused the government of condemning Christian citizens and stated that Mackenzie should be treated as a criminal and not representative of the church.<sup>41</sup> She stated that he must be dealt with according to the constitution. Article 32 of Kenya's constitution recognises freedom of thought, belief, religion, and conscience and prohibits religious discrimination. It does not allow for the use of faith or religion, a form of expression, to harm or advocate for hatred of others.<sup>42</sup> The question that arises therefore is whether fasting to death is within the bounds of an individual's constitutional right to freedom of religion.<sup>43</sup>

Through this tragedy, the government has the opportunity to explore preventative methods that could apply to all forms of religious extremism. Due to the popularity of preachers who urge members to donate large amounts of money promising that it will in turn improve their financial situation, and the popular use of social media to spread religious teachings, the government will need to supplement their efforts against religious extremism with education and psychosocial support campaigns for the most vulnerable communities.

## Planner

18-20 May 2023	<b>Nairobi (Kenya)</b>	Solar Africa Expo 2023
23-23 May 2023	<b>Nairobi (Kenya)</b>	Finnovex East Africa Summit
29-31 May 2023	<b>Nairobi (Kenya)</b>	Kenya International Investment Conference (KIICO) 2023
31 May-3 Jun 2023	<b>Nairobi (Kenya)</b>	International Mining & Mineral Processing Machinery Exhibition (MINEXPO)
5-9 Jun 2023	<b>Nairobi (Kenya)</b>	United Nations Habitat Assembly
12-14 Jun 2023	<b>Nairobi (Kenya)</b>	Africa Hospitality Investment Forum (AHIF)
14-16 Jun 2023	<b>Nairobi (Kenya)</b>	Aviation Route Development Conference (AviaDev)
20-23 Jun 2023	<b>Nairobi (Kenya)</b>	Africa Energy Forum
17-19 Jul 2023	<b>Nairobi (Kenya)</b>	Kenya Mining Week
4-6 Sep	<b>Nairobi (Kenya)</b>	African Climate Action Summit

<sup>38</sup> Tuko, 15 May 2023

<sup>39</sup> The East African, 26 Apr 2023

<sup>40</sup> BBC News, 13 Sep 2023

<sup>41</sup> Daily Nation, 28 Apr 2023

<sup>42</sup> Amnesty International, 1 May 2023

<sup>43</sup> The Africa Report, 11 May 2023

## Chronology

17 May 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Standard*. President **William Ruto** nominates director of public prosecution **Noordin Haji** as director general of the **National Intelligence Service (NIS)**,

16 May 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Standard*. President **William Ruto** appoints **Irungu Nyakera** as chairman of the **Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA)** board;

16 May 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Standard*. President **William Ruto** nominates former treasury principal secretary **Kamau Thugge** as the governor of the **Central Bank of Kenya**, who, if approved, will replace **Patrick Njoroge** whose term ends in June;

15 May 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Star*. Deputy president **Rigathi Gachagua** says talks are underway to explore the possibility of direct flights from Nairobi to **Bogota (Columbia)** following a bilateral meeting with Colombian vice president **Francia Elena Marquez Mina**;

15 May 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. **World Bank** asks **Kenya** to drop the requirement for mining firms in Kenya to cede at least 35% stake to locals to attract more investments, and urges policymakers to develop a mining regulatory framework for regional equity to attract investments and maximise revenues from natural resources;

15 May 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The East African*. Interior cabinet secretary **Kithure Kindiki** and his **Somali** counterpart **Mohamed Ahmed Sheikh** announce that the **Mandera, Lamu and Garissa** border points with Somalia will officially reopen in the coming 90 days;

14 May 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. **Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)** officer in charge of **Taveta** border crossing **Peter Kiilu** says his staff have intensified surveillance along the Kenya-**Tanzania** border after intercepting five lorries exporting scrap batteries to Tanzania, while industry players call for tougher penalties;

14 May 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *NTV*. **Finland** and **Germany** jointly announce a partnership to support the Kenyan government in skills training for youth through a new technical, vocational education and training (TVET) programme;

14 May 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Star*. President **William Ruto** reveals that Kenya's gross public debt reached KSh8.8 trillion (\$64.01 billion) but pledges that all debts will be paid;

12 May 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Reuters*. **United States**-headquartered credit rating agency **Moody's** downgrades Kenya's senior unsecured debt rating as well as long-term foreign-currency and local-currency issuer ratings to B3 from B2, just one level above the high-risk credit risk category;

12 May 2023 **Wajir (Kenya)** *Voice of America*. Deputy president **Rigathi Gachagua** announces the launch of a project to improve socio-economic development and re-open official border crossings between **Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia**;

11 May 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Standard*. Bipartisan dialogue committee co-chair **Otiende Amollo** says that **Azimio** and **Kenya Kwanza** have agreed on preliminary list of issues for discussion at the bipartisan talks with a timeframe of 60 days;

11 May 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Citizen*. National treasury report shows that the government has stepped up expenditure on the **Nairobi-Mombasa standard gauge railway (SGR)** with a plan to spend KSh100 billion (\$731.53m) in the next three years to revamp the line, build new sidings and buy more locomotives and cargo wagons;

11 May 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The East African*. Kenya begins the planned closure of **Dadaab** and **Kakuma** refugee camps over security concerns as government plans to transition refugees into integrated settlements with host communities where they will benefit from government services;

10 May 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *American Chamber of Commerce – Kenya*. **American Chamber of Commerce Kenya's** 2022 annual report identifies that an inconsistent tax regime, high cost of doing business, and illicit and counterfeit trade are major barriers in Kenya's manufacturing sector;

10 May 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. Kenya is in line to secure another KSh136.5 billion (\$9.93m) loan from the **World Bank** as it seeks funds to ease the cash flow crisis and boost its dwindling foreign exchange reserves;

9 May 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. Alcohol and cigarettes are spared from tax increases for the first time in five years after the **Finance Bill** left out the two products from excise duty adjustments;

9 May 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The East African*. Data from **Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS)** Economic Survey 2023 shows that Kenya's direct investment in **Ethiopia** reached Ksh60.2 billion (\$440.7m) in 2021—surpassing **Tanzania** and **Uganda's** Ksh51.5 billion (\$377m) and Ksh56.3 billion (\$412m), respectively;

9 May 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Capital FM*. Former **Christ is the Answer Ministry (CITAM)** church presiding bishop **David Oginde** is sworn in as the new **Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC)** chairperson;

8 May 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. President **William Ruto's** administration increases allocation for road projects in the upcoming fiscal year threefold to KSh239.5 billion (\$1.74 billion);

4 May 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Star*. Former **Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC)** chairman **Wafula Chebukati** says he will address the contentious server issue while presenting his project 'Role of technology in improving the integrity of the electoral process in Kenya' at the annual electoral integrity conference in July;

3 May 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Reuters*. Opposition coalition **Azimio** agrees to suspend mass protests after President **William Ruto's** ruling **Kenya Kwanza** alliance agrees to one of their demands;

2 May 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. **Central Bank of Kenya (CBK)** data shows that from January to March 2023 remittances fell for the first time since 2010 as inflation hit multi-decade highs in many countries;

1 May 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. President **William Ruto** announces a new salaries policy that will set equal pay for workers in public and private sectors while defending extra pension and medical deductions that have shrunk pay slips;

28 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Capital FM*. Government, through the foreign affairs ministry, facilitates the evacuation of at least 342 evacuees from **Sudan** to Nairobi;

27 Apr 2023 **Entebbe (Uganda)** *Capital FM*. President **William Ruto** attends the heads of state summit of the troop contributing countries to the **African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS)** in Uganda;

27 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Star*. President **William Ruto** appoints former **United Republic Party** secretary general **Fred Muteti** as chairperson of the **Special Economic Zones Authority**;

26 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. **Kenya Power** invites companies to supply four electric double cabin pick-up trucks, four light utility vehicles and 30 motorcycles as part of the state-owned power distributor's goal to shift to a completely clean energy-powered fleet by 2027;

26 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Capital FM*. Interior cabinet secretary **Kithure Kindiki** says that the security situation in northern Kenya has "improved tremendously" following deployment of the military to the region to clear out bandit occupied strongholds;

25 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. **Latvia's** foreign ministry states that the first batch of 200,000 tonnes of **Russian** fertiliser that had been confiscated in **Latvia** due to **European** sanctions has been released to Kenya by the **World Food Programme (WFP)**;

25 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Standard*. The leadership of **Kenya Union Party (KUP)** initiates the process to exit opposition leader **Raila Odinga's** coalition party **Azimio la Umoja One Kenya** and join president **William Ruto's Kenya Kwanza Alliance**;

25 Apr 2023 **Washington DC (United States)** *The East African.*, Foreign affairs cabinet secretary **Alfred Mutua** says that **Russian** and **Gulf** countries' involvement in **Sudan's** politics is hurting the search for peace;

24 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Standard*. **National Drought Management Authority's** latest data shows that although the condition of pastures and access to water sources has improved due to recent rains, flash floods have killed hundreds of livestock and displaced families with the number of people still in need of assistance standing at 4.4 million;

24 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. **Safaricom**, Kenya's top communications company, increases its 5G coverage to 28 towns across 21 counties enabling more customers to enjoy superfast internet speeds;

24 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. A new report by **African Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (AVCA)** shows Kenya received \$676m (13%) of the total \$5.2 billion raised in venture capital on the African continent over 2022;

23 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *PD Online*. Foreign affairs cabinet secretary **Alfred Mutua** reveals that Kenya is ready to send police officers to **Haiti** to assist in stabilising the island nation;

20 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. President **William Ruto's** administration borrows KSh17.4 billion (\$7.39m) more than former president **Uhuru Kenyatta** in its first six months in office, upending the plan to go slow on debt;

19 Apr 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Citizen Digital*. Following an increase in deadly road accidents, transport cabinet secretary **Kipchumba Murkomen** announces that school transportation is prohibited between 10pm and 5am and that from 1 July, all public service vehicle drivers will have to undergo a mandatory medical fitness test before renewal of their driving licenses.