

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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Kenya Summary 18 May 2026

President William Ruto's (2022-present) state visit to Tanzania advances Kenya-Tanzania cooperation on trade, energy, and infrastructure and includes agreements on a Dar es Salaam-Mombasa gas pipeline feasibility study. The visit also gives renewed momentum to a proposed regional oil refinery, although Tanzania's consultation concerns and Nigerian businessman Aliko Dangote's comments favouring Mombasa indicate that the project's location and political backing remain unsettled. Kenya and France co-host the Africa Forward Summit in Nairobi, positioning Kenya as a regional investment hub while France seeks to reframe its Africa policy through €23 billion (\$27 billion) in infrastructure, energy, logistics, and digital commitments. National Assembly opens public participation on the Finance Bill 2026 as the government seeks to strengthen domestic revenue mobilisation amid weaker than expected growth. The bill signals a shift towards tighter data-led tax regulation, targeting digital payments and electronically available taxpayer data, while increasing the risk of public pushback over affordability and privacy concerns.

Presidents Ruto and Hassan enhance strategic regional cooperation

President **William Ruto** (2022-present) conducted a two-day state visit to **Tanzania** on 4 and 5 May, during which he held talks with President **Samia Suluhu Hassan** (2021-present), addressed the **Tanzania-Kenya Business Forum** in **Dar es Salaam** and spoke before Tanzania's Parliament. The visit underscored renewed efforts to deepen economic cooperation, with [Ruto](#) emphasising that the countries' historical rivalry should yield to practical integration and asserted that the mutual destiny of the two countries relies on shared infrastructure rather than "isolated nationalism". He added that that presenting a unified economic bloc is crucial for attracting foreign direct investment.

The visit produced [eight](#) memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and bilateral agreements spanning energy, transport, agriculture, trade, maritime cooperation between **Mombasa** and **Dar es Salaam** ports, legal cooperation, standards harmonisation between **Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS)** and **Tanzania Bureau of Standards**, and public-service capacity building. A landmark [agreement](#) signed by Tanzania's energy minister **Deogratius Ndejemi** and Kenyan energy and petroleum cabinet secretary (CS) **Opiyo Wanda** authorised a joint feasibility study for a proposed **Dar es Salaam-Mombasa** natural gas pipeline. Officials [said](#) the study will assess the project's technical, economic, and environmental viability with the pipeline potentially supplying Tanzanian gas to Kenyan industrial hubs and support cross-border electricity trading. While the project could improve energy diversification for manufacturers in **Mombasa County** and **Nairobi**, costs, land access, and environmental approvals remain likely obstacles to rapid implementation.

Tanzania is Kenya's second-most important **East African Community (EAC)** export market after **Uganda**. Ruto [told](#) Tanzania's Parliament that "Kenya and Tanzania are deeply interdependent economies" with bilateral trade reaching \$860.3m in 2025 and accounting for nearly 40% of intra-EAC trade. He expressed that the figure could exceed \$1 billion in 2026 if regulatory frictions are removed. However, recent years have shown a downward trend in the relationship. **Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS)** [data](#) shows Kenyan exports to Tanzania fell from \$516.6m in 2024 to \$489m in 2025, while imports from Tanzania declined from \$451m to \$388m. At the business forum, Ruto [said](#) both governments would create a joint technical mechanism to eliminate trade barriers, publish a time-bound resolution plan, and ensure new barriers are addressed "swiftly and conclusively".

The visit also sought to manage sensitivities around a proposed KSh 2.5 trillion (\$19.2 billion) regional oil refinery in **Tanga**, a port city in northeast Tanzania. During the **Africa We Build Summit** in Nairobi on 23 April, Ruto [announced](#) that East African countries were discussing a joint [refinery](#) at Tanga port, modelled on **Nigeria's Dangote Refinery**, that could process oil from **Uganda, South Sudan**, Kenya and the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** with a short pipeline linking Tanga to Mombasa:

*"We do not want to be held hostage any more by the **Strait of Hormuz**... We do not want to be held hostage by wars that are started by other people. We have our resources here, and we are saying we are going to use our African resources to industrialise our region."*

Following the summit, Dangote Refinery's owner, **Aliko Dangote**, who was in attendance, said:

"If we agree with the three four governments here about the refinery, we will lead and make sure that refinery is built within the next four five years."

In Dar es Salaam this created a point of tension between the leaders, with Hassan [publicly](#) noting that she had asked Ruto why he had announced the refinery plans without prior Tanzanian consultation. Ruto [responded](#) that the proposal reflected wider regional industrialisation discussions, including conversations with Uganda's President **Yoweri Museveni** (1986-present). The exchange was diplomatically contained, but it exposed the structural competition beneath Tanzania and Kenya's cooperation agenda with leader's positioning their countries as the region's main commercial, financial, and transport anchor for East African trade. Dangote [told](#) the **United Kingdom's (UK) Financial Times** on 10 May that he was "*leaning more towards Mombasa*" for the new 650,000-barrel-per-day refinery, citing Kenya's deeper port and larger market, adding that "*the ball is in the hands of President Ruto ... Whatever President Ruto says is what I'll do.*"

The visit also highlighted [concerns](#) over public participation in politics. Hassan said both governments should be firm against people she described as exploiting democracy to incite unrest, stating:

"If they come to me, I will deal with them; if they come to you, deal with them so they behave."

The **East Africa Law Society (EALS)** [warned](#) that the remarks raised concern over possible coordinated cross-border enforcement against civilians expressing their political freedoms. Kenyan opposition figures, including **Orange Democratic Movement (ODM)** secretary general **Edwin Sifuna**, [criticised](#) the comments citing Tanzanian authorities alleged [abductions](#) of Kenyan activists.

While the state visit is likely to strengthen private-sector engagement and increase cooperation in energy and logistics harmonisation, the test remains how changes are implemented. Lower border frictions would benefit traders, manufacturers, and consumers, while an East African refinery and gas pipeline would support a more integrated regional energy market. However, due to the countries' historical rivalry, cross-border projects will need careful diplomatic consultation, a credible sharing of commercial benefits, as well as sensitivity to the fact that Kenya and Tanzania are each seeking to be seen as East Africa's economic leaders.

Africa Forward Summit strengthens Kenya–France investment ties

Kenya and **France** co-hosted the **Africa Forward Summit** in Nairobi on 11 and 12 May, marking the first France–Africa summit held in an Anglophone African country. It took place as France seeks to rebuild influence beyond parts of Francophone **West Africa** while giving Ruto a platform to present Kenya as a regional hub for investment. The summit brought together more than 30 African leaders, France's President **Emmanuel Macron** (2017–present), business executives, and multilateral representatives. Other heads of state publicly [reported](#) in attendance included Nigeria's President **Bola Tinubu** (2023–present), **Senegal's** President **Bassirou Diomaye Faye** (2024–present), **Gabon's** President **Brice Oligui Nguema** (2025–present), **Sierra Leone's** President **Julius Maada Bio** (2018–present), **Liberia's** President **Joseph Nyuma Boakai** (2024–present), **Côte d'Ivoire's** President **Alassane Ouattara** (2010–present), **Mauritius'** prime minister **Navinchandra Ramgoolam** (2024–present), and **Morocco's** prime minister **Aziz Akhannouch** (2021–present). **United Nations (UN)**

secretary general **António Guterres** also attended the summit, using his 12 May [opening remarks](#) to call for fairer financing and stronger African representation in global decision-making.

In pre-summit remarks, Kenya's foreign affairs principal secretary (PS) **Korir Sing'oei** [highlighted](#) Kenya's key diplomatic role as a "bridge-builder" in Africa. He [stated](#) that over 150 French companies were currently operating in Kenya, employing around 70,000 Kenyans. In a separate statement, France's ambassador to Kenya, **Arnaud Suquet**, [said](#) around 1,500 economic stakeholders would be mobilised for the Africa Forward Summit to turn "*ambitions into projects and projects into results.*"

During the summit, Macron [announced](#) €23 billion (\$27 billion) in investment commitments, likely intending to show that France's reframing of their Africa policy to a "partnership of equals" translated into concrete commercial and infrastructure pledges. This included €14 billion (\$16.4 billion) from French companies and €9 billion (\$10.5 billion) from African entities. Macron [stated](#) that the investment package would support 250,000 jobs in Africa and France adding that "*a lot of solutions are made in the US [United States]. or made in China*" and argued that Europe and Africa were aligned in a "common fight" to build "*strategic autonomy.*"

Some key highlights included:

- French shipping group **CMA CGM** [committed](#) €700m (\$820m) to modernise and expand two terminals at the **Port of Mombasa**;
- Kenya and France [signed](#) a KSh12.5 billion (\$96m) agreement to rehabilitate and modernise commuter rail links from Nairobi to **Syokimau, Embakasi, Ruiru, and Kikuyu**;
- A 100MW [expansion](#) of **Kipeto Wind Power** at KSh32.5 billion (\$250m). Agreements also covered sustainable aviation fuel, climate and weather services, blue-economy cooperation, and financing for raising **Masinga Dam**;
- Agreements covering cybersecurity, artificial intelligence (AI), digital public services, healthcare, technical training, and the KSh5.6 billion (\$43m) **University of Nairobi Engineering and Science Complex**;
- Kenya and French private-sector partners signed an agreement to [promote](#) Kenyan speciality tea in French retail markets. The arrangement involves **Palais des Thés, Gatanga Industries Limited, and Equity Group Holdings Plc**, and is intended to move Kenyan producers into higher-value varieties. Kenya's tea sector is facing logistics pressure from shipping disruption linked to the **Iran** conflict as the **Middle East** markets account for 20–25% of Kenya's tea exports; [approximately](#) eight million kilogrammes of tea has been stuck in warehouses in Mombasa while **East Africa Tea Traders Association** managing director **George Omuga** said losses since 1 March were reaching \$8m per week.

Despite France's positive investment messaging during the summit, Kenya–France infrastructure cooperation has not been entirely smooth. In April 2025, Kenya [terminated](#) a €1.3 billion (\$1.5 billion) **Vinci**-led public-private partnership (PPP) for the 140km **Nairobi–Nakuru–Mau Summit Highway** ([initiated](#) in 2020) after **Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA)** [said](#) traffic-demand risk had been placed on the government and restructuring was "*unbankable.*" In November 2025, Kenya announced that the project had [shifted](#) to Chinese partners, **China Road and Bridge Corporation** and **Shandong Hi-Speed Road and Bridge International**, with a planned 2027 completion date.

The summit took place against France's declining influence in parts of Francophone West Africa, where the nation has faced growing [criticism](#) over 'Françafrique', shorthand for its post-independence political, military, and economic influence in former colonies. Since 2020, military-led governments in **Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger** have pushed out French forces and sought alternative security partnerships, including with **Russia**-linked actors. None of the leaders of those three countries were [reported](#) to attend the summit. Hosting the summit in Kenya, a former **British** colony, was an opportunity for Macron to [reposition](#) France as an investor and co-development partner rather than a former colonial power. However, the summit was not without political and security friction.

Police used [teargas](#) against anti-France protesters in Nairobi's Central Business District on 12 May, who were intercepted along **Uhuru Highway** while attempting to move towards the summit venue at **Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC)**. Local media [reported](#) that police arrested between 11 and 13 individuals, including foreign nationals. **Milimani Magistrates' Court** subsequently [charged](#) five activists. Macron also faced [backlash](#) after interrupting a **University of Nairobi** panel and addressing the audience noise as "a *total lack of respect*." While some attendees applauded, critics described the intervention as "*patronising*" given France's colonial history and Macron's 10 May [claim](#) that "*we are the true Pan-Africanists*."

The summit is likely to deepen Kenya's engagement with France and the **European Union (EU)** while also [supporting](#) Ruto's case for global financial-architecture reform. Ruto has been a consistent and vocal advocate of a new approach to development and climate finance, [arguing](#) at the **African Development Bank (AfDB)** annual meetings in May 2024 that the existing global financial architecture is "*fundamentally misaligned*" with Africa's development ambitions. Macron has [reportedly](#) backed a first-loss guarantee mechanism to de-risk African investment and said he would lobby for it at the **Group of Seven (G7)** discussions in **Évian-les-Bains** (France) next month, which Ruto will also attend.

2026 Finance Bill highlights revenue pressures

The **National Assembly** on 11 May [opened](#) public participation on the **Finance Bill, 2026**, inviting written memoranda by 25 May. Notably, **National Treasury** omitted new **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** funding in the 2026/27 budget, increasing pressure on Ruto's administration to rely on domestic revenue mobilisation, administrative enforcement, and borrowing without repeating the political [backlash](#) that followed the **2024 Finance Bill** (*see ARC Briefing Kenya Jul 2024*). This pressure has been sharpened by weaker than expected growth; on 29 April **Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS)** data [showed](#) the economy grew by 4.6% in 2025, below the finance ministry's earlier 5% estimate.

Some notable provisions of the bill include:

- Fees earned from [card transactions](#), including interchange and merchant service fees, would be brought within the withholding tax net. This would mainly affect banks, payment processors, and global card firms such as **Visa** and **Mastercard**, although some costs could be passed on to merchants or consumers;
- A proposed 16% Value-Added Tax (VAT) on digital [mobile payment](#) platforms including **Safaricom's MPesa**, **Airtel's Airtel Money**, **KCB Bank's Pesapal**, and dozens others;
- A proposed 25% excise duty on [mobile phones](#) (increased from 10%), with liability arising at device activation rather than importation or manufacture.
- Imported second-hand clothes and footwear ([mitumba](#)) would face a deemed-profit model, with 5% of customs value treated as taxable income at entry point.
- Annual income-tax filing [deadlines](#) would move from 30 June to 30 April, increasing pressure on individuals and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with limited administrative capacity.
- Tighter tax oversight of crypto platforms, proprietary digital platforms, payment networks and software-related income.
- Considerations to raise the [Pay as You Earn \(PAYE\)](#) tax-free threshold from KSh 24,000 (\$184.85) to KSh 30,000 (\$231.06) but government warned that early simulations show a possible KSh 35bn (\$271m) annual revenue loss.

Public and social media reaction has largely focused on affordability and privacy concerns. Former **Law Society of Kenya (LSK)** president **Faith Odhiambo** [warned](#) that these measures could place additional pressure on households and companies operating in a "*a challenging economic environment*." KNBS [reported](#) on 29 April that annual consumer inflation rose to 5.6% in April, up from 4.4% in March. This is in addition to two consecutive months of **Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA)** [increasing](#) petrol and diesel prices. The latest pricing [statement](#) for

the 15 May–14 June cycle, increases petrol to KSh 214.25 (\$1.66) per litre and diesel to KSh 242.92 (\$1.867) per litre. The increases, partly linked to higher imported fuel costs amid the **Middle East crisis**, are likely to add pressure to transport fares and household budgets, increasing the risk that cost-of-living grievances feed into public protest around the Finance Bill.

The bill announcement also prompted circulation of social media posts, **centred** on KRA gaining “*superpowers*” to freeze money until a dispute is solved and the **proposed** 16% VAT on mobile payment platforms. Online debate has speculated that mobile phone prices would rise and that the **Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)**, led by newly **appointed** acting commissioner general **Lilian Nyawanda**, could access sensitive mobile-money transaction data. **MPesa** has 37.91 million monthly active users in Kenya and between March 2025 and March 2026, customers moved KSh 41.7 trillion (\$321 billion) through the platform.

Mumias East member of parliament (MP) **Peter Salasya** **criticised** the proposed mitumba tax, calling it a “*direct hit*” on the informal sector and traders. He argued that requiring tax to be paid at import stage would add pressure to small traders already operating on narrow margins. National Treasury and economic planning CS **John Mbadi** pushed back against online claims and **reaffirmed** users that mobile money transfers are not taxable income and urged Kenyans to stop circulating “*fake Finance Bills*”. Regarding second-hand clothing, he **stated** that market leaders themselves made the request to simplify the tax.

Overall, the bill underlines the importance of expanding revenue collection while the government faces high debt-servicing costs, weaker than expected growth, and no new IMF funding factored into the budget. It also marks a broader shift towards tighter, data-led tax administration, as KRA seeks to widen compliance by drawing on digital payment flows, card transactions, cryptocurrency activity, and other electronically available taxpayer information.

The decision to open the bill to public participation gives Ruto’s administration an opportunity to show responsiveness after the 2024 protests, but it also highlights the difficult position the government faces - Kenya needs stronger domestic revenue mobilisation to narrow the fiscal deficit while at the same time households and businesses remain under pressure from inflation, fuel-price increases, and weaker disposable income. If citizen’s perceive the proposals as raising the cost of mobile payments, smartphones, transport, or basic goods, it is likely to deepen frustration and increase the risk of renewed online mobilisation and public protest activity.

Planner

8-10 Jul 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** MINEXPO Kenya 2026

29-31 Jul 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** Power & Energy Africa – Kenya 2026

19 Jun – 17 Jul 2027 **(Kenya)** Kenya to co-host **Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON)** alongside **Tanzania**, and **Uganda**

10 Aug 2027 **(Kenya)** General election

Chronology

17 May 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Press Release*. The **Federation of Public Transport Sector (FPTS)** confirms its support for and encourages the nationwide motorists’ demonstrations scheduled for 18 May, while several schools announce that they will remain closed for the day;

17 May 2026 **Baku (Azerbaijan)** *The Standard*. President **William Ruto** arrives in Baku to attend the 13th session **World Urban Forum** and showcase Kenya’s achievements in affordable housing and sustainable urban development, and hold bilateral talks with President **Ilham Aliyev** to strengthen cooperation before heading to **Kazakhstan** to hold talks with President **Kassym-Jomart Tokayev** and oversee the signing of several agreements;

16 May 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. Public transport operators throughout Kenya increase fares by 50%, threatening to strike from 18 May following increased fuel prices;

16 May 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Insider*. Court of appeal temporarily allows the government to proceed with a controversial \$1.6 billion **United States (US)**-backed health partnership after suspending an earlier court block over data privacy concerns;

16 May 2026 **London (United Kingdom)** *Citizen Digital*. Opposition **Democracy for Citizens Party (DCP)** leader and former deputy president **Rigathi Gachagua** arrives in London for a series of engagements with the Kenyan diaspora, as he also seeks to mobilise election funds ahead of the 2027 general election;

16 May 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. **Tanzanian** billionaire **Mohammed Dewji** announces an investment of \$50m in a soft drinks manufacturing plant in **Mombasa (Kenya)** through his company, **MeTL Group**;

14 May 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Poland in Kenya*. The **Polish-Kenyan Business Forum 2026** takes place in Nairobi and is attended by 240 participants across food, agrotechnical, construction, cosmetics, infrastructure, logistics, IT, and industrial technology sectors, as well as representatives of the **BGK (Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego)** and the arms industry;

14 May 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Kenya Times*. The latest **Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA)** fuel review lists super petrol as retailing at KSh 214.25 (\$1.66) per litre, while diesel has risen to KSh 242.92 (\$1.867) per litre, making it the highest diesel price among major **East African** countries;

12 May 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Tanzania and **Kenya** are intensifying their competition to become the primary hub for oil refining in **East Africa** as regional energy demands shift, highlighting a broader push for infrastructure dominance within the **East African Community (EAC)**;

12 May 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Al Jazeera*., **France's** President **Emmanuel Macron** announces a \$27 billion investment package focused on energy transition, agriculture and artificial intelligence during the **Africa Forward Summit** in Nairobi;

11 May 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Reuters*. Kenya hosts the **France-organised Africa Forward Summit**, attended by France's President **Emmanuel Macron** and 30 **African** leaders;

10 May 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Bloomberg*. A planned \$1 billion data centre by **United States (US)** tech giant **Microsoft** and **Abu Dhabi**-based AI firm **G42** has stalled after the Kenyan government failed to meet Microsoft's demand for guaranteed annual capacity payments; President **William Ruto** says that the nation would need to "switch off half the country" to keep the facility running;

10 May 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. The **Consumers Federation of Kenya** sues **Swiss** firm **SICPA** for allegedly using fuel markers containing chemicals that are harmful to the environment;

3 May 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Star*. The **National Police Service** confirms that at least 18 people have died in floods and mudslides triggered by sustained heavy rainfall, with mudslides specifically reported in **Tharaka Nithi, Elgeyo-Marakwet, and Kiambu** counties;

1 May 2026 **Vihiga County (Kenya)** *The Star*. During labour day celebrations President **William Ruto** announces a 12% increase in general wages and a 15% increase for agricultural workers, following a request by workers through the **Central Organisation of Trade Unions (COTU)**;

1 May 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Citizen Digital*. The **National Treasury** submits Kenya's KSh 4.82 trillion (\$37.12 billion) 2026/27 budget estimates to **Parliament** which does not factor

in **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** funding and outlines intentions to borrow upwards of KSh.1.1 trillion (\$8.47 billion), much of it from the domestic market, to meet the total expenditure demand;

1 May 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Standard*. According to data presented at the **African Private Capital Association** conference and **Venture Capital Summit 2026**, Nairobi has cemented its position as Africa's leading destination for start-up funding, attracting close to \$1 billion (around KSh 130 billion) in venture capital in the last year;

30 Apr 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Capital FM*. **Kenya National Bureau of Statistics** releases the **2026 Economic Survey** which shows GDP growth slowed to 4.6% in 2025, from 4.7% in 2024, and the economy added around 822,100 new jobs (of which roughly 87% were in the informal sector), with total informal-sector employment rising 4.1% to 18.1 million workers, while modern-sector wage employment grew 2.8% to 3.3 million jobs;

29 Apr 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. **Daily Nation** publishes an article alleging that certain fertility and surrogacy agencies in Kenya intend to influence the legislative process by bribing senators in a bid to shape the proposed surrogacy law that seeks to regulate the country's largely unregulated surrogacy industry;

28 Apr 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *BBC*. President **William Ruto** walks back recent remarks that mocked the **Nigerian** accent, claiming his comments were taken out of context and intended as a private joke about the excellent variety of English across **Africa**;

27 Apr 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Citizen Digital*. High court resumes hearing former deputy president **Rigathi Gachagua's** challenge to his October 2024 impeachment, with his defence team arguing that the parliamentary process leading to his removal was "*constitutionally flawed*;"

26 Apr 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. **World Bank** outlines three primary policy hurdles that Kenya must address to unlock a \$750m Development Policy Operations (DPO) loan intended to support fiscal stability and green growth;

25 April 2026 **Murang'a (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. President **William Ruto** tours **Murang'a County (Mount Kenya Region)** and pledges KSh 2 billion (\$15.42m) to complete the remaining sections of the **Mau Mau** roads;

25 Apr 2026 **Mombasa (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. Opposition leaders including **Kalonzo Musyoka, Rigathi Gachagua, Justin Muturi** and **Eugene Wamalwa** address a **United Opposition** rally, alleging that President **William Ruto** had planted moles in their ranks and pledging to oust him in 2027;

24 Apr 2026 **Malindi (Kenya)** *Jurist*. Court of appeal overturns a ruling that affirmed the right to access abortion, firmly holding that abortion is not a fundamental right under the Constitution, triggering divided reactions across Kenya and setting the stage for further court conflicts;

22 Apr 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. National treasury, auditor general, and controller of budget data shows President **William Ruto's** presidency has spent Sh88.8 billion (\$677.8m) in less than four years, nearly matching the Sh89.9 billion (\$686.2m) spent by his predecessor over ten years;

22 Apr 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Decode 39*. Kenya and **Italy** sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on defence cooperation, bolstering bilateral ties;

20 Apr 2026 **Rome (Italy)** *Citizen Digital*. President **William Ruto** concludes his three-day state visit to **Italy** which included talks with President **Sergio Mattarella** and prime minister **Giorgia Meloni**, adopting the **Kenya-Italy Action Plan 2026-2029** and identifying priority

cooperation in trade and investment, sustainable energy, agribusiness, infrastructure, science and innovation, and space;

21 Apr 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Standard*. President **William Ruto** urges Kenyans living abroad to ignore social media 'fake news', claiming that digital platforms often distort the reality of his administration's progress;

21 Apr 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Africanews*. **Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA)** raises the price of super petrol and diesel by KSh 28.69 (\$0,22) per litre and KSh 40.3 (\$0,31) per litre respectively, blaming a surge in imported fuel costs;

20 Apr 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. Treasury cabinet secretary **John Mbadi** revises the tax revenue target for the financial year ending June downward to KSh2.6 trillion (\$20.1 billion), from an earlier KSh2.63 trillion (\$20.28 billion) after **KRA** collected only KSh1.7 trillion (\$13.11 billion) in the nine months to March;

20 Apr 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Standard*. Political friction between opposition **Orange Democratic Movement (ODM)** and the ruling **United Democratic Alliance (UDA)** escalates as ODM suspends coalition negotiations and accuses government-aligned actors of undermining its members of parliament, citing political intimidation and attempts to weaken its structures ahead of 2027, with senior ODM leaders insisting that continued cooperation within the "broad-based arrangement" is now under review, signalling uncertainty in the governing coalition;

19 Apr 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Star*. Kenya and **Portugal** agree to accelerate the conclusion and implementation of several pending bilateral agreements following political consultations in **Nairobi** between foreign affairs cabinet secretary (CS) **Musalia Mudavadi** and Portugal's foreign affairs minister **Paulo Range**;

17 Apr 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Semafor*. Kenya requests emergency funds from the **World Bank** to cushion its economy against the fallout of the **Middle East** conflict;

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