



# Press Release

## KEPSA RECOGNIZES THE YOUTH FOR LEADING IN RAISING ISSUES AFFECTING THE COUNTRY

**Nairobi, Kenya—3rd July 2024:** The private sector in Kenya, through its umbrella body, the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), wishes to restate its position, as published in a statement on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2024, that the right of Kenyans to assemble, picket, and demonstrate peacefully is firmly entrenched in the Constitution of Kenya. We note with a lot of concern that the peaceful protests that occurred yesterday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2024, turned violent after being infiltrated by ill-intended groups, resulting in further loss of livelihoods and the destruction of public and private property. We continue condoling with the families of the national heroes whose lives have been cut short and wish to comfort those still receiving treatment for injuries from the protests.

We recognize the efforts of our youth, who constitute a major percentage of Kenya's labor force. KEPSA acknowledges your leadership during this period of national outcry and your continued contribution to the growth of the private sector. Furthermore, we recognize and value the efforts of the KEPSA Members and all stakeholders who have come out strongly to express concerns and work together to find amicable solutions.

The business community, through KEPSA, will continue to advocate for an economy that benefits all by promoting an enabling business environment and good governance. We will take short-, medium-, and long-term steps to support the youth and Kenyans in general, including:

1. Responding to the social impacts of the demonstrations by visiting the hospitalized victims and the bereaved families and providing the support they require during this difficult period. This will be done through the MKenya Daima Initiative.
2. Creating more opportunities for youths, including internships and job placement, and beginning a survey to establish youth statistics in our different member organizations and how many more can be absorbed in the next few years.
3. Mainstreaming youth initiatives through economic policies that offer subcontracting and business linkages through the value chains as a special interest group.
4. Developing a platform to engage the education system and industry to match skills and industry needs.
5. Working with the government to identify areas of wastage and those that require cutting expenditures. This will ensure that most funds are redirected to education and health, with the rest shared among other sectors.

The issues raised by our youth have been with us for a long time, and we, as the business community, using our advocacy channels with the government, will pick among the issues raised to add to our business environment agenda:

1. Actively listen to the concerns raised by the Gen-Zs and other stakeholders, many of which have been raised with various administrations over the years.
2. Reduce the size of the government.
3. Ensure a balanced budget that reflects the citizens' needs while enabling the government to operate within the confines of the Public Finance Management framework.
4. Ensure a sustainable framework for public expenditure that avoids public wastage and opulence.
5. Use justifiable funding sources to pave a path towards achieving inclusivity and reducing economic inequalities.
6. Re-evaluate the current economic model to ensure Kenya's economic growth agenda is not compromised.
7. Ensure the value for the tax contributed is realized to encourage compliance and the payment of taxes.
8. Complete the reconstitution of the IEBC and have the youth represented and included in the constitution of the IEBC selection Panel and Membership of the commissioners.

In the long term, we realize that the current economic and political models are not serving us in achieving Vision 2030. The system is broken, and we, as a country, must bring all to the table to craft a system that doesn't exclude over 60% from economic and political participation.

#### ENDS.../

The KEPSA associations listed below represent over a million corporates of all sizes, from SMEs to multinationals.



## ABOUT KEPSA

The Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) is the apex body of the private sector in Kenya. KEPSA brings together business associations, trade associations, corporates, multinational companies, SMEs, and start-ups from all sectors of the economy under one umbrella to enable them to speak with one voice when engaging Government and other stakeholders on cross-cutting policy issues affecting private sector development, supporting businesses on training, opportunities to network for business, financial linkages, mentoring, access to markets, value chains and access to investment opportunities. The membership categories have been developed to meet the size of all businesses.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.kepsa.or.ke>.



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