



Press Release

PRIVATE SECTOR CALLS FOR DE-ESCALATION OF THE CURRENT NATIONAL SITUATION

Nairobi, Kenya: In a private sector conversation held on the sidelines of the 21st Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) held today, members expressed concern over the escalation of the disregard for the rule of law, leading to the deaths of young Kenyans.

We send our sincere condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives or been injured in the hands of the security officers or otherwise, while exercising their rights to peaceful assembly and when airing their grievances as enshrined in the constitution.

The business community has been actively working closely with the government and other stakeholders to create a conducive business environment both inwardly and globally. As a result, Kenya has grown into an attractive destination for business and foreign investment. We need to ensure that these efforts are not watered down, so that businesses do not shut down due to the escalation of emotions and public unrest.

To the youth, we acknowledge that you are an integral part of the business community, whether as entrepreneurs, employers, or employees. The private sector remains committed to addressing all concerns that will ensure the lives of all Kenyans are protected and sustainable jobs are created and maintained.

Furthermore, we understand that the security officers don't always operate in the easiest environment. Yet, as they navigate the everyday challenges, they must have the protection of lives and livelihoods at the forefront of their minds and hearts. In executing their mandate, we expect them to follow the rule of law.

To the political class, we urge you to gauge your actions and utterances to avoid further weakening the social and economic fabric upon which our society, including the private sector, depends on. The public, including the security officers, takes their cue from you, and the effects are felt widely, including by investors.

The private sector advocates for a governance model that prioritises public accountability and the peaceful expression of grievance as enshrined in the constitution. In light of this, we are calling for an urgent de-escalation of the situation to prevent it from leading to further loss of life, destruction of property, and negative impacts on businesses.

The private sector commits to continue engaging closely around these areas with the relevant stakeholders as well as under the Mkenya Daima Initiative. Mkenya Daima is an initiative inspired by the private sector but belongs to all Kenyans. It represents a collective of diverse stakeholders, including the business community, religious leaders, and civil society, united in the pursuit of a prosperous and equitable Kenya.

ENDS.../

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>

Kind regards,



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