



Press Release

KEPSA REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO SEEKING DE-ESCALATION OF THE CURRENT NATIONAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC CLIMATE IN THE COUNTRY

Nairobi, Kenya: The private sector in Kenya, represented by its umbrella organization, the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), has observed with grave concern that recent protests, including the Saba Saba demonstrations held on Monday, July 7, 2025, have increasingly escalated into violence, resulting in additional loss of life, livelihoods, and damage to both private and public property. We extend our condolences to the families of those who lost their lives during this time of national outcry and comfort those still receiving treatment for injuries sustained during the protests.

We also recognize both large and small businesses, all of which are direct or indirect KEPSA members, that have been directly or indirectly impacted by the protests. As we engage the private sector to assess the overall socioeconomic impact, we commit to collaborating with relevant institutions and stakeholders at the highest level to develop solutions to the grievances raised, as well as to identify ways to manage protests that don't lead to loss of life and livelihoods; such as the full implementation of the Maraga Taskforce Police Reforms Report.

To those protesting, we hear your concerns as they are also our concerns, and indeed the concerns of all Kenyans. These include lack of transparency in the management of our national resources and finances, lack of access to quality and affordable education and healthcare systems, inadequate allocation of resources towards infrastructure development, inefficient access to government services, and a deteriorating business environment that makes it challenging for the private sector, from SMEs to multinationals to create and maintain jobs. Whilst KEPSA has continued to engage the government on these issues over the years, it is increasingly clear that, as a nation, we need quicker and more fundamental changes for the benefit of all.

There is mounting evidence that violent ‘goons’ have been hired to disrupt peaceful protests. This is contrary to Kenya’s moral fabric and poses a significant risk to Kenyans’ peaceful expression of their grievances. Their funders ought to know that funding criminality will, in time, unleash dangerous gangs that can easily turn on their masters and the state, as we have seen in the past.

We acknowledge the difficult task the Police have in protecting constitutional rights, including the right to protest, while also maintaining law and order and protecting life and property. We urge the Police to use utmost restraint and not resort to violent confrontation as the first option in dealing with protesters. These are your children, too - your brothers and sisters. It is within the realm of possibility to issue clear protest guidelines that differentiate between peaceful protesters and those out to destroy property. We call for an end to unexplained abductions and ask you, as the custodians of the rule of law, to lead by example. Your children shall reap the benefits of your wise leadership.

To the youth, we urge you to air your concerns responsibly and refrain from destroying the very future you seek to improve. Your social and political engagement, as well as your calls for accountability, are the building blocks for a sustainable democracy. As we develop new and improved governance models and cultures, we must continue to seek non-violent means for agitation and expressing dissent.

Kenya is clearly in crisis, and we call on all leaders – including political, religious, business, civil society, youth, and other stakeholders – to step up to the challenge. History tells us leaders will be judged harshly. Now is the time to lead with wisdom, calm, honor, and in line with the Constitutional values of our nation. As the business community, under KEPSA, we shall not tire of speaking truth to power, publicly or behind closed doors. We commit to continuing to play our role in advocating for an enabling business environment, creating sustainable jobs, and working closely with all like-minded stakeholders to build a better Kenya and a better future.

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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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