



PRESS RELEASE
(For Immediate Release)

DESPATCH FROM CABINET

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT chaired an Emergency Session of Cabinet this morning. The Emergency Session of Cabinet was convened to assess the impact of extreme weather as manifested in the above-normal short rains classified by the Meteorological Department as the ***El-Nino phenomenon***.

THE ABOVE NORMAL precipitation, resulting from the *El-Nino*, has led to widespread flooding that has regrettably led to loss of lives, displacement of families, disease outbreaks, destruction of infrastructure and property, as well as prolonged power outages across Kenya and many parts of the Eastern Africa Region.

CABINET CONDOLED with the bereaved families and all persons adversely affected by the devastating effects of this weather phenomenon. Consequently, the Cabinet sanctioned various policy and administrative interventions to augment the ongoing State mitigation and response being implemented by the National and County Governments.

THE ADDITIONAL POLICY and administrative interventions sanctioned by Cabinet this morning will enhance our national resilience and preparedness for future weather and climate-driven disasters, as well as better empower the State to prevent further loss of lives, destruction of property and interruptions to our way of life arising from the *El-Nino* situation.

AS PART OF the preliminary assessment of the severity of the situation across the country, the meeting noted that **38 of our nation's 47 counties** are within the Alarm Stage, a stage characterized by flash floods, general flooding in low-lying plains, rivers bursting their banks, landslides and mudslides, loss of livestock and destruction of farmland and infrastructure.



CABINET NOTED WITH regret that we have **lost seventy-six (76) Kenyans to *El-Nino***, while 35,000 households have been displaced. The most severely affected areas are in the North-Eastern, Eastern and Coast regions, specifically:

REGION	COUNTIES
North-Eastern (3)	Mandera, Wajir and Garissa
Coastal (6)	Kilifi, Mombasa, Taita Taveta, Tana River, Kwale and Lamu
Central (4)	Murang'a, Nyeri, Kiambu and Kirinyaga.
Eastern (7)	Isiolo, Kitui, Machakos, Makueni, Marsabit, Meru and Tharaka-Nithi
Nyanza (4)	Homabay, Kisumu, Migori and Kisii
Western (3)	Bungoma, Busia and Kakamega
Rift Valley (10)	Baringo, Bomet, Kajiado, Kericho, Nandi, Narok, Turkana, Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu and West Pokot
Nairobi (1)	Nairobi

IN THAT REGARD, Cabinet noted that the State had allocated KSh7 billion with which it is implementing various programmes to address the plight of Kenyans across the country. The funds were **appropriated** by Parliament under the **Contingencies Fund** as part of the FY2023/24 budget and Supplementary Appropriations No. I of FY 2023/24.

THE RESOURCES COMMITTED will be applied for humanitarian response, including distribution and supply of medical commodities, food and non-food items, rehabilitation of infrastructure and resettlement of displaced families.

THE STATE'S INTERVENTION is being undertaken in a joint effort between the National and County Governments, and which incorporates the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) and the National Youth Service (NYS) in operation with the Kenya Red Cross Society. Through aircraft made available by the Kenya Defence Forces, medical supplies have been airlifted to the most vulnerable counties.



THESE MEASURES include:

- I. To support farmers** who have been adversely affected, the Government has disbursed KSh500 Million to New KCC to mop up excess milk during this rainy season;
- II. Airlift medical supplies** worth KSh180 million by KDF to Wajir County;
- III. Infrastructure restoration** is being implemented following damage caused by the rains. The works on the following have been repaired:
 1. Mbogolo Bridge on the Mtwapa-Malindi Road;
 2. Jilango Centre on the Nuno-Modogashe Road;
 3. Maadathe Centre on the Wajir-Mandera Road;
 4. Ohio Centre on the Nuno-Modogashe Road;
 5. Garbaqoley in Mandera;
 6. Garissa Airstrip has been repaired and commercial flights resume tomorrow.

Ongoing works to be completed by tomorrow Tuesday, 28th November 27, 2023, are:

1. Repairs at Maalmim and Togbub on the Nuno-Modogashe Road;
2. Kotulo, Mandera, on the Wajir-Mandera Road.

The works in progress are:

1. Tula on the Thika-Garissa Road;
2. Arer on the Thika-Garissa Road;



3. Moyale-Rhamu Road in Mandera.

TO FORTIFY THE national response, the Cabinet sanctioned the following additional interventions:

- I. **SCALING UP** the scope of humanitarian assistance to reach more than 50,000 households in ASAL counties;
- II. **OBSERVED THAT**, to support County Governments in addressing the disaster situations in their respective areas, the National Treasury last week disbursed KSh10 billion of their shareable revenue;
- III. **CABINET DIRECTED THE** National Treasury to release an additional KSh10 billion to County Governments this week;
- IV. **DIRECTED THE** enhanced deployment of the KDF and all public civilian aircraft to transport medical supplies, food and non-food items for targeted distribution as recommended;
- V. **SANCTIONED** a proposal be sent to Parliament for the replenishment of the Contingencies Fund and the rationalization of the budget under Supplementary Appropriations II of FY2023/24;
- VI. **DIRECTED** the National Treasury to further rationalize the current budget and direct Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) to commence reallocation of funds in their budgets to support the emergency response being undertaken by the State;
- VII. **SCALING-UP** of rapid response to rehabilitate dilapidated road networks and facilitate delivery of humanitarian assistance to the affected populations;
- VIII. **SANCTIONED** the distribution of over 150,000 mosquito nets to the affected counties;



- IX. **DIRECTED** the Ministry of Energy & Petroleum, in consultation with all agencies within the sector, to give priority to maximum production, uptake and distribution of hydro-generated power;
- X. **DIRECTED** the Ministry of Energy to pass the benefit of lower electricity tariffs to the public in a manner that promotes the increased use of hydro-generated power, which has presently increased to 20 per cent while diesel has gone down from 15% to 10%;
- XI. **COMMITTED** the coordination of all State efforts to the **National Disaster Operations Center**, which will coordinate all relief activities by activating the Whole of Government Approach, thus ensuring efficient deployment of resources and enhanced communication among relevant government agencies and humanitarian organizations;
- XII. **ESTABLISHED** an ad hoc Cabinet Committee on Disaster Response under the leadership of His Excellency the Deputy President to coordinate the State response.

Through the National Disaster Operations Center, the Government will continue to provide regular updates on the progress of our relief efforts, and the centre shall work closely with the media in disseminating accurate and timely information to the public.

THE EMERGENCY SESSION of Cabinet concluded by reassuring all Kenyans that the Government is doing everything within its power to return the situation to normalcy within the shortest time possible.

THE CABINET URGED all Kenyans to prioritize safety during their travel during this period, as well as at their homes and workplaces. All Kenyans should exercise patience and caution while travelling, wait for storm waters to subside before attempting to crossroads, report any instances of flooding



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or landslides to the authorities, and **strictly follow all guidelines issued by the Government.**

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Monday, 27th November 2023