



**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESPERSON
& NATIONAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

PRESS RELEASE

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

5th May, 2024.

DAILY MEDIA BRIEF ON THE FLOODING SITUATION IN KENYA

1. The country continues to endure heavy rainfall especially in the Lake Victoria basin, the Rift Valley, Highlands West and East of the Rift Valley including Nairobi area and South-Eastern lowlands. Sadly, these conditions are expected to persist, with the heavy rainfall extending to Northern Kenya until today.
2. Occasional moderate to heavy rainfall is likely to continue over the Western region (Kakamega, Vihiga, Busia, Bungoma, and Trans Nzoia); Lake

Victoria Basin (Kisumu, Kisii, Nyamira, Migori, Siaya, Homabay); Rift Valley (Nandi, Bomet, Nakuru, Elgeyo Marakwet, West Pokot, Baringo, Uasin Gishu, Laikipia, Kajiado, Narok); Central (Nyeri, Muranga, Kirinyaga, Kiambu, Nyandarua); Eastern (Machakos, Embu, Tharaka Nithi, Meru, Makueni, Kitui); and Nairobi. The Coastal Strip (Kwale, Mombasa, Kilifi, Lamu) is likely to see moderate to heavy rainfall offshore which may occasionally propagate inland, accompanied by strong winds and large waves.

3. The continuing rainfall in the Central region and the overflow of the Seven Forks Dams will exacerbate the flooding in the Tana Delta, impacting **Garissa, Tana River, and Lamu Counties** whereas the continued rainfall in Western Kenya and highlands West of the Rift Valley continue to aggravate the flooding in Homa Bay and Kisumu counties. This will also worsen the backflow of Lake Victoria which has affected Dunga beach, Remba

island, Kobuya, Simbi Nyaima, Sindo and other areas along the lake basin.

4. Additionally, the counties of **Mombasa, Tana River, Kilifi, Lamu, Kwale, Taita Taveta and Garissa** will experience strong southerly winds exceeding 40 knots. Significant ocean waves, potentially exceeding 2 metres high are predicted in the Indian Ocean from today till **6th May, 2024**. The waves may affect marine activities. Fishermen and other ocean users are therefore advised to be on the lookout and exercise extreme caution.
5. These strong winds and waves are attributed to the tropical cyclone “Hidaya”. This cyclone will lead to heavy rainfall offshore along the Kenyan coast from today, **Sunday, May 5th**, intensifying and propagating inland and along the coast on **Monday, May 6th, to Tuesday, May 7th, 2024**.
6. Fresh to strong breeze of between **8 and 26 knots** expected in **Kwale, Mombasa, Kilifi and Lamu**.

Small boats and crafts are likely to be filled with water sprays and become unstable. Small boats and crafts sailors are therefore advised not to venture into the deep sea in Kwale, Mombasa, Kilifi and Lamu.

7. Tragically, the ongoing flooding has resulted in the injury of **164 Kenyans** while **72 persons** are currently reported missing. Furthermore, approximately **212,630 persons**, from **42,526 households** have been displaced. The total number of persons affected across the country stands at **223,198**.
8. We mourn the loss of **9 lives** in the past 24 hours, **including 7 adults and 2 children**, bringing the total flood-related death toll to **228, across the country**. The government conveys its heartfelt condolences to friends and families who have lost their loved ones.

9. Regrettably, the devastating mudslide in **Mai Mahiu** has claimed **52 lives**, with another **52 injured** while **51 persons** are reported as missing. The Search and Rescue/Retrieval (SAR) operations is still underway with **151 KDF** and **400 NYS** officers deployed in the area.
10. The counties of **Homa Bay, Kajiado, Nakuru, Mandera and Nairobi** are the worst hit counties, suffering extensive flooding and significant disruptions to daily life and economic activities.
11. In response to the escalating risk to citizens residing near high-risk dams and water reservoirs, the government continues to effect the 24-Hour evacuation notice issued on **May 2**. The Government is facilitating logistical support, providing alternative accommodation and essential supplies to those affected.
12. In Nairobi County, a multi-agency team is leading the evacuation of people residing in riparian areas. **163,210 residents** have so far been evacuated either

forcefully or voluntarily. The government has arranged alternative accommodation for those affected and they will be considered for social housing on a priority basis. The Nairobi Rivers Commission will resume river regeneration along the city's rivers and nobody will be allowed to settle on the riparian areas again. It is noteworthy to state that there have been **no cases of drowning** in all the areas in Nairobi since the evacuation began.

13. Despite our successful control efforts, 1 cholera case reported on 26th April 2024 in Tana River County has been confirmed with additional reports of suspected diarrhoeal cases in Marsabit County. The Ministry of Health is working with a multi-agency team to ensure control of cholera and other water borne diseases through the implementation of different measures including;
 - i. Provision of cholera contingency supplies to assist in the management of patients

- ii. Distribution of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Supplies to help purify water sources and treat household water in all high-risk areas and rescue camps.
 - iii. Strengthening community health education to address risk factors and promote healthy practices, such as treating water before use and using community health promoters (CHPs).
14. To avert further risks of water borne diseases, members of the public are advised to properly wash hands with soap and running water, use safe treated water, avoid open defecation by using latrines/toilets and ensure proper waste disposal.
15. If you notice any signs or symptoms of diarrhoea or vomiting, please seek immediate medical attention at the nearest health facility or contact the **National Public Health Emergency Operation Centre** through the toll-free number **719**.

16. Despite the ongoing flooding, it is reassuring to note that our National Game parks and reserves remain safe and largely accessible. The flood scare in Maasai Mara should not cause alarm as **only 2 tented camps** along Talek River have been swept away and no casualty has been reported in terms of tourists and employees. The affected tourists and employees were evacuated and are safe. Only a few roads in Mara have been affected, and the park is still widely accessible. The flood waters are subsiding and travel advisories requesting tourists from visiting should be **IGNORED**. Kenya remains safe for tourism, **hakuna matata!**
17. In response to this crisis, the government is actively distributing food and essential supplies to the affected regions to ensure that no one goes without necessary support during these challenging times. We urge all citizens to cooperate with local authorities and relief workers and to follow all the

safety instructions provided by various government agencies.

18. For those in safer areas, we appeal to your spirit of community and generosity and ask that you join in the ongoing relief efforts, whether through donations or volunteering. We also appeal to our development partners and the friends of Kenya, to support our nation during this period of emergency. We commend the Government of the United Arab Emirates for their donations of two planes loaded with 80 tonnes of food items.
19. To report flood related emergencies, wananchi are advised to call the National Disaster Operations Centre (NDOC) through the number **0800 721 571**.
20. The Office of the Government Spokesperson, which is the National Government Communications Centre will continue to provide regular updates to Kenyans on the flooding situation and the corresponding government response efforts. We urge everyone to stay safe by

avoiding flooded areas and to practice caution around fast-moving waters. Once again, let us prioritize safety and let us take the necessary precautions during these demanding times.

**HON. SEN. (DR.) ISAAC MAIGUA MWAURA, CBS
GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN**