



## **Press Statement by Kenyans Residing in Minnesota on Current Events in Kenya**

Date: 06/30/2024

Time: 3:00PM

Place: Centennial Park Brooklyn Center 6301 Shingle Creek Pkwy, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

Dear Kenyans,

Kenyan citizens residing in Minnesota have watched in disbelief as peaceful demonstrations led by our youth, commonly referred to as "Gen Z," have been met with violent and criminal responses from the police. The protesters were peaceful, chanting "We are peaceful," yet the police attacked them with water cannons, tear gas, and live bullets, resulting in many deaths and injuries. This is a profoundly regrettable occurrence. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families of these brave patriots and wish a speedy recovery to those injured. Our hearts also go out to those who lost property due to the unwarranted and brutal police intervention.

It is deeply troubling that the police, entrusted with ensuring public safety and protecting property, turned against the very people they are supposed to protect.

The protests were triggered by President William Ruto's insistence on imposing the Finance Bill 2024, which proposes heavy and unjust taxes on already overtaxed and impoverished Kenyans. Despite clear rejection during public participation and parliamentary debates, the parliament and President Ruto ignored the cries of Kenyans and passed the bill.



The Finance Bill 2024 includes numerous unjust and criminal allocations, such as funding unconstitutional offices for the spouses of high-ranking officials and luxury expenses for state residences. These allocations come at the cost of increased taxes on basic items like sanitary pads for women and bread, which is outrageous and unacceptable.

Our government has long been known for its corruption, but the 13th parliament has taken it to extreme levels. Why must jobless and poor Kenyans pay for the extravagant living expenses of President Ruto's wife and the wives of his top officials?

President William Ruto's 2022 campaign promised food security, support for small and medium businesses, improved housing, healthcare, a digital superhighway, a creative economy, and better public services. None of these promises have been fulfilled. Instead, his administration has embarked on a campaign of mass impoverishment, borrowing heavily without delivering corresponding development projects. In less than two years of his presidency, President William Ruto has borrowed more and spent less in development than his two predecessors despite collecting much more taxes thus creating and imposing a tax menace on Kenyans. By June 2023, Kenya's gross debt had soared to Ksh 10.19 trillion, with no visible benefits for the people.

Top government officials and parliamentarians have been splurging on luxury items and taking expensive and unnecessary trips abroad, while millions of educated youths remain jobless, the healthcare system is crumbling, and teachers are underpaid. President Ruto has also cut higher education tuition subsidies, forcing students to choose affordable courses over their aspirations.



Kenyans have watched in awe as this grand theft has been being sanctioned by the churches and religious organizations, further deepening public despair and disillusionment. The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) has been silent on these issues, while the courts have been systematically acquitting individuals accused of embezzling billions, who are then appointed to lucrative government positions.

At this point, it is irrefutable that President William Ruto has no solution for Kenya; he is the problem and must go. It is shameful that while thousands of our girls endure dangerous jobs in the Middle East to support their families, our government ignores their plight. Due to an ignored public healthcare system, Kenyans continue to spend billions seeking medical treatment abroad due to the lack of specialized centers at home.

We were appalled when 13 members of the U.S. Congress supervised the finance bill 2024 debate in our parliament. Kenya is not an appendage of America, and we will not allow Ruto to bring us back into colonialism. We must resist and revolt against William Ruto's corrupt effort to bring our country under control of the USA, Europe, and IMF. We resist western imperialism on our people, and we will never accept to be colonized. Ruto is a traitor and must be pushed out.

Kenyans, we are led by a criminal gang that disregards human rights, seeking to steal our money in peace and suppress any dissent by shooting our children. This is unacceptable.

Therefore, Kenyans residing in Minnesota, join hands with our gen Z and other Kenyans to demand the following 10 non-negotiable actions:



1. President Ruto must resign immediately to pave the way for a new presidential election.
2. Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration Kithure Kindiki, the inspector-general of police Japeth Koome, and all Nairobi police commanders should resign immediately. All the officers who pulled the trigger and killed or maimed protesters must be held individually accountable.
3. Immediate compensation for the families of those killed and injured, with the government covering all medical and funeral expenses. Our fallen heroes must be accorded state funerals. We further demand that the names of those killed and injured must be celebrated alongside those of freedom fighters like Dedan Kimathi and Jomo Kenyatta.
4. Immediate constitution of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) so that Kenyans start recalling criminal MPs.
5. President William Ruto must stay away from our children when they protest his cruel and inhumane leadership. Withdraw police and the military from our streets and let our children protest in peace.
6. Immediate return of our police officers from Haiti, as Kenyans do not want to interfere in affairs of foreign countries. Equally, we demand an immediate withdrawal of the military from the streets and rescinding the illegal gazette notice issued by Duale.
7. Immediately scab all unconstitutional offices, such as those of the first lady and the second lady and Chief Administrative Secretaries (CAS), with all misallocated funds recovered without delay.
8. A thorough audit of all foreign debt (conducted publicly), including the guarantees given during signing of these loans.
9. Reinstatement and full prosecution of all withdrawn corruption cases including but not limited to the arrest of Mithika Linturi for selling fake fertilizer to farmers and Didmus Braza, Babu Owino and Aisha Jumwa for shooting and killing innocent



Kenyans. Additionally, all judges who have been making questionable judgments must be suspended pending investigations.

While Kenyans residing in Minnesota express solidarity with our youth's effort to bring positive change to our country and call for immediate and decisive action to address the current crisis, we are deeply concerned that President William Ruto is once again resorting to deceit, and we urge fellow Kenyans not to fall prey to his lies. President Ruto initially pretends to be a God-fearing man, aligning himself with the church to gain the support of Kenyans, who are a God-fearing people. He then broke all his promises with impunity. President William Ruto sent police to kill our youth and labeled them criminals and traitors for protesting his lies. A day later, he changed his tune and called them his children. Instead of resigning immediately, President William Ruto has gathered the same bishops and pastors who endorsed him at State House to manipulate the youth. President William Ruto, we see through you. We know where you come from:

*You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it (John 8:44).*

To the bishops, pastors, and false prophets already gathering around President William Ruto even before the blood of our youth has dried in the streets, time has come for Kenyans to say enough is enough. You do not represent the young people of Kenya. You are hypocrites who have aligned yourselves with every corrupt government and are equally responsible for the problems facing Kenyans. To you, false prophets, we say this:



*Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves(Mathew 7:15-23).*

Finally, we thank everyone for attending and the press for conveying this message. God bless you all. God bless Kenya.