



OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY PRESIDENT

**REMARKS FOR H.E. RIGATHI GACHAGUA, EGH, DEPUTY
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA DURING THE
NATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF FLOOD
RESPONSE ACTIONS, AND CALL TO ACTION TO PRIVATE
SECTOR, DEVELOPMENT AND WELLWISHERS
MAY 6, 2024**

**Governors Present,
Cabinet Secretaries Present,
Principal Secretaries Present,
Chief Executive Officers of State Corporations,
Senior Government Officials,
Private Sector and Non-State Actor Representatives,
Development Partner Representatives,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- **Last week, H.E. The President made a call to Kenyans to stand together and join hands in overcoming what is destined to become one of the most devastating environmental challenges to be experienced in our country.**
- **As was noted, the continued torrential rains have led to incidences of flooding, landslides, road closures and the loss of lives and property across the country.**

The severe weather conditions have impacted over 227,000 people, caused 228 fatalities, injured 164 people, displaced 42,526 households and damaged infrastructure including roads, bridges and waterways.

- **Permit me to request us all to rise to our feet and observe a minute of silence in honour and in remembrance of the many lives that have been lost as a result of the devastating floods, landslides, and other calamities occasioned by the enhanced rainfall.**

“MOMENT OF SILENCE”

- **You may take your seats.**

- **In their memory, we have come together to commit to joining H.E. The President's call to action, to continue being our brothers' keepers.**

Like in all previous times of challenge and crisis, the Kenyan spirit of compassion and fortitude in times of adversity has always come through, embodying the true meaning of "Harambee".

- **Despite the overwhelming impact of recent events, and the pain and agony of families who have lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods, we have observed that our humanity and the natural desire to extend a hand of generosity to our brothers and sisters has not diminished.**

- **I, therefore, thank all our first responders who have been on the ground undertaking search and rescue services, providing food and other humanitarian support, tracing and reuniting families, and most importantly, offering psycho-social support across affected areas.**
- **I also thank you for heeding to our call today and joining us in framing an even more elaborate structure of aid to families and communities whose lives have been turned upside down by the calamities of the last few weeks.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- **The Government of Kenya has made significant strides in mitigating the impact of the flooding and other disaster actions across the country.**
- **Since our last engagement, we have made efforts to mitigate loss of lives especially around dams and swollen river basins; the opening of schools has been deferred until further notice; and humanitarian and other assistance has been accorded on priority basis to particular affected sites across the country, road closures**

to facilitate infrastructure repair to bridges, roads and railways have been prioritized.

Our disciplined forces have been deployed across the country to back up the first responder teams and clear roads and waterways.

- **However, even with the extensive Government led programmes at both national and county level, we appreciate the need to receive and coordinate additional support for greater effectiveness.**

- **In this regard, we are calling on our development partners, private sector, non-state actors, and individual well-wishers to contribute in cash and in-kind to the noble efforts to support those most affected by the floods, landslides and other related challenges.**
- **Last week, the National Disaster Response Steering Committee Technical Team identified and categorized the most urgent areas requiring expedited support.**

These include food assistance to affected families; water treatment to mitigate the risk of waterborne disease outbreak; emergency housing solutions; essential medical commodities and repair of critical infrastructure.

- **We see an opportunity to jointly coordinate extended support to these areas through a joint up action involving government, development partners, private sector, non-state actors and individual well-wishers.**

- **This whole of society approach, will allow us to respond rapidly and strategically to where the needs are greatest; allow the greatest level of flexibility to deliver timely and effective coordinated assistance to the most vulnerable families; and facilitate a more impactful outcome of chosen interventions.**

- **In this regard, we invite the use of the following architecture:**
 - a. **Development Partners with existing financial support arrangements with Government of Kenya, and who are in a position to make requisite programme changes to support flood mitigation efforts are to engage through the National Treasury, with due information to the National Disaster Operations Center Secretariat on Toll Free Emergency Contact is 0800 721 571 and the International Development Partnership**

Coordination Unit (IDPCU) in the Office of the Deputy President for information and coordination purposes.

- b. All other private sector and individual well-wishers wishing to make cash donations may liaise with the National Drought Response Team led by Mr. Peter Ndegwa, Chief Executive Officer of Safaricom Limited, whose membership and mandate has now been expanded to support the flood mitigation actions.**

The Team can be reached via the National Disaster Operations Center Secretariat on Toll Free Emergency Contact is 0800 721 571.

- c. The Drought Response Team has an existing infrastructure to aid in coordinating private sector/individual well-wisher cash donations. The private sector/well-wishers are therefore invited to send cash donations to:**

"The National Drought Mitigation Appeal Fund (to be renamed to the National Disaster Emergency Response Appeal Fund)"

KSHS	1305486137	KCB/RIVERSIDE/PLATINUM
US \$	1314877186	KCB/RIVERSIDE/PLATINUM
PAYBILL NO	880990	SAFARICOM PLC

d. Any development partner, private sector and individual well-wishers with in-kind donations including food and non-food items, care packages, medical packs etc are invited to deliver them to the National Disaster Operations Center (NDOC) at Nyayo House, Nairobi, and also available on Toll Free Emergency Contact is 0800 721 571.

The same will be centrally warehoused at designated Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), National Youth Service (NYS) and Kenya Red Cross warehouses for subsequent distribution through established partnerships in a coordinated manner.

e. Where the private sector/individual well-wishers intend to undertake distribution directly to victims on the ground, they are to:

- i. Communicate the information on the nature, quantity and quality of in-kind support intended to be distributed, the intended area/site of support, intended date of distribution and intended number of recipient households/persons to the NDOC Secretariat for information and coordination.**

ii. The NDOC team shall guide such individuals/private sector organizations on the on-the-ground security arrangements, local National Government Administration (NGAO) liaison, and appropriate dates for distribution in order to ensure good order, security, and fair and equitable distribution across the various victim sites.

iii. Where a private sector organization, or individual wishes to channel support directly to a county government, they are to similarly provide information on the nature, quantity and quality of inkind support intended to be distributed, the intended area/site of support, intended date of distribution and intended number of recipient households/persons to the NDOC Secretariat for information and guidance.

- iv. Distribution of in-kind support should only be undertaken with the presence and coordination of the relevant County Commissioners and/or their designated representatives.**
- Donations received will be recorded and published on the NDOC and Ministry of Interior and National Administration websites and updated on a weekly basis.**

- **The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) will be tasked to assure not only the accountability and transparency of funds utilization, but also assurance on the integrity of adopted processes and food/non-food distribution actions.**

A comprehensive report will be provided on the use of donations received upon final audit.

- **The Inspector General of Police, and the National Government Administration Officers are directed to secure enforcement of this protocol, and further communicate the NDOC Secretariat details and information to interested local community actors in coordinating distribution efforts.**

- **We invite all donors, well-wishers and sponsors to adopt this approach so as to secure the coordination, consolidation, demarcation and distribution of donations to vulnerable populations across the country based on the needs map already developed, in a transparent and accountable manner, while also making a visible impact to the communities.**

- **We further call on County Governments to facilitate the allocation of emergency funds to support the disaster mitigation actions as anticipated in the Public Finance Management Act. Whereas the minimum requirement is for an allocation not exceeding two percent of the total county government revenue as shown in audited financial statements for the previous financial year, we call on the Counties to dig even deeper, and facilitate any additional amounts necessary to save the lives and livelihoods of our people.**

In conclusion, I thank all Kenyans and other actors of goodwill for the prayers, support and sponsorship already offered. We invite any other additional facilitation that may be available to be channelled through the above structure in a manner that will deliver effective and impactful support.

I reiterate the message of H.E. The President during his address last week. That in the face of daunting challenges, immense threats and unprecedented hazards, our nation has never failed.

I am confident that we shall live up to the true spirit of Harambee, and to the restoration of dignity to those most affected.

Thank You