



PRESS RELEASE
(For Immediate Release)

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DESPATCH FROM CABINET

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT chaired a meeting of Cabinet at State House, Nairobi. The day's session, which was the second meeting of Cabinet this week, was convened to consider the humanitarian situation arising from the ongoing torrential floods, the state of preparedness for school re-opening, as well as to assess the impact of the interventions being implemented by the State in collaboration with Aid Partners in response to the flood situations across Kenya.

THE MEETING was apprised on the weather outlook for the period May to July, 2024 as issued by the Metrological Department; and Cabinet noted that several parts of the country are likely to continue receiving near-average to above-average rainfall during that period. However, due to Tropical Cyclone Hidaya which has developed over the Indian Ocean, Kenya's coastal region is expected to receive heavy rainfall during the first week of May.

IN RESPONSE to the devastation across the country caused by the above normal rainfall and the resultant flooding and humanitarian crisis situations, Cabinet sanctioned a **scale up of humanitarian aid to support the families and communities adversely affected by the tragedy.** The scaled up humanitarian aid sanctioned by Cabinet constitutes of food and non-food items, water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, and transportation for rescue and relocation actions.

Cabinet reiterated the public call to all persons living within **high risk zones such as flash-floods prone areas or on riparian land to immediately move to higher ground as earlier directed.**



The high risk zones also include areas near dams and other water reservoirs in public or private land, areas prone to mudslides and landslides, and riparian lands along rivers and other water bodies across the country.

To guarantee the safety of learners at all levels of early learning and basic education, and in furtherance of the Administration's commitment to leave no child behind; Cabinet was briefed on the state of preparedness for the reopening of schools nationwide. The meeting was informed that arrangements have been made to accommodate individuals temporarily housed in 15 schools, comprising 9 secondary and 6 primary schools across the country.

Additionally, Cabinet sanctioned the rehabilitation of infrastructure in all the affected learning facilities on an utmost priority basis, so as to facilitate the resumption of learning in all schools across the country.

In light of the satisfactory assessment of the state of preparedness of the 23,542 primary schools, 19,843 junior secondary schools, and 9,391 secondary schools, the nation's apex policy-making organ affirmed that all schools shall re-open on **Monday, 6th May, 2024**.

THEREAFTER, CABINET considered a Memorandum that seeks to enhance the nation's capacity to defend our sovereignty and territorial integrity through the extension of the runway at Manda Bay Airfield in Lamu. The project will be delivered pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Kenya and the United States of America.

CABINET will reconvene on notice to assess the effectiveness of the State interventions **in response to the impact of the torrential rains across parts of the country**.

CABINET OFFICE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Thursday, 2nd May, 2024