

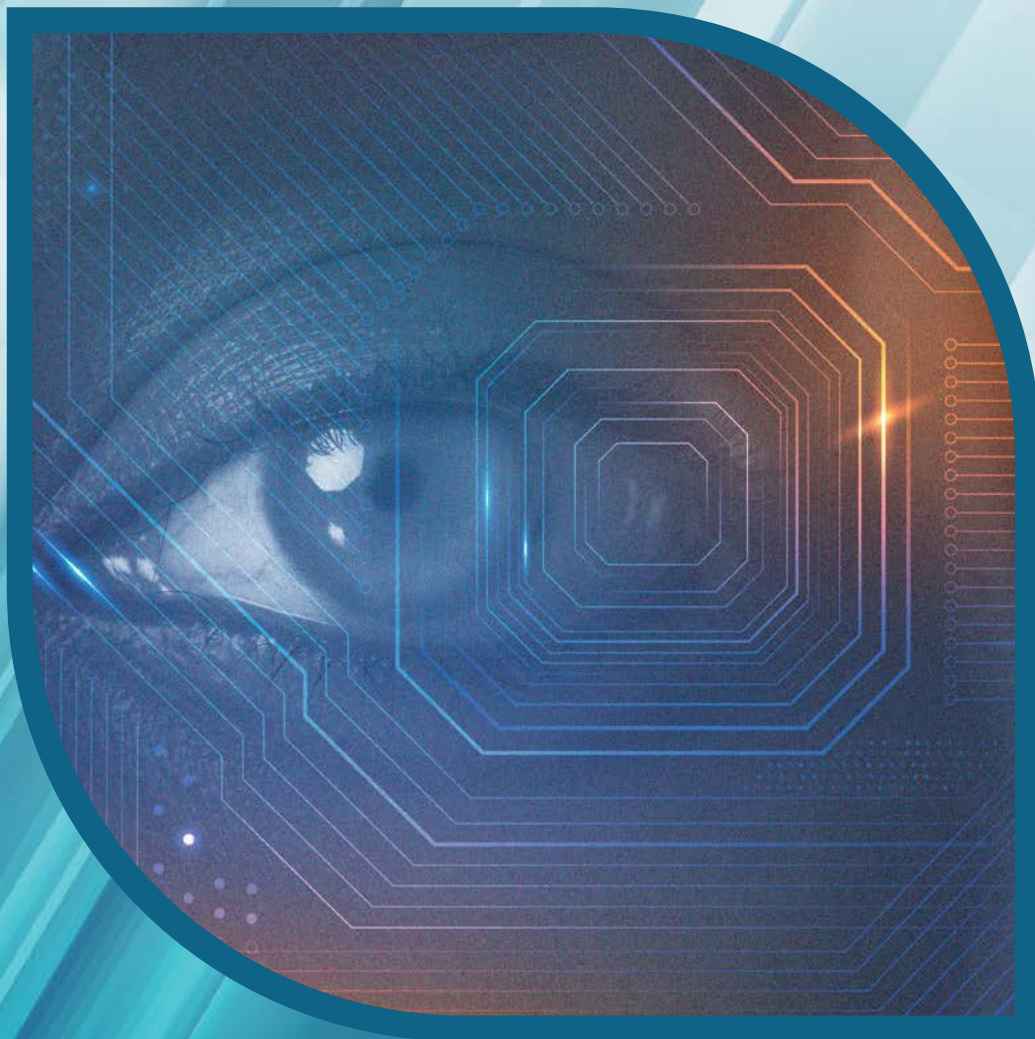


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# MONITOR



APRIL 2022

# SOUTH SUDAN

APRIL 2022

## ACUTE HUNGER STRIKES SOUTH SUDANESE CHILDREN HARDEST

A report released by the Minister of Agriculture stated that over 7.74 million people are heading for an acute food shortage

as the country heads towards the agriculture lean season between April and July. The severe food shortage have been exacerbated by shocks such as severe flooding,

droughts, sub-national and local violence, and the effects of the ongoing macroeconomic crisis among others.

## TENSIONS IN LEER COUNTY

Violence in Leer county has displaced thousands from their homes. The crisis is

allegedly being fanned by the Commissioners of Koch and Mayendit Counties and has been

going on since January.

## RESUMPTION OF THE JONGLEI CANAL

The government through the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation has drafted a document on the resumption of the Jonglei Canal. A decision that has sparked a lot of controversies among the citizens. The Ministry stated that the project would help mitigate the impacts of the flood and would bring more

benefits to the community than negative impacts. Experts on the other hand stated that the project would only benefit Egypt and Sudan leaving South Sudan deprived of her natural resources, a loss in biodiversity and negatively impact the communities that depend on the Sudd swamp for survival. The Jonglei canal project was stopped by the

late Dr. John Garang in 1984 following the outbreak of the civil war between the Sudanese government and SPLA/M movement is seen as a major threat to the ecology of the Sudd region, the largest wetland in Africa which occupies an area of about 57,000 square kilometers home to hundreds of species.

# SUDAN

APRIL 2022

## SUDANESE PROTESTERS MARK THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF BASHIR'S REMOVAL

Protesters commemorate ex-leader's overthrow with protests against current government that grabbed power after a coup. A protester was reportedly killed as security forces fired live ammunition and tear gas in Khartoum, the Country's capital.

## SUDAN'S COUP CRIPPLED ITS FRAIL HEALTH SECTOR

Last October's military coup has had a ripple effect on the country's healthcare sector. Asil Sidahmed, a former adviser to the health ministry under Hamdok's government, says the coup opened the door for high-level corruption in the sector. She said most of the Ministry of Health's funding was supposed to come from the World Bank Global Fund and Gavi, a public-private partnership providing vaccines to the global south. But Sidahmed cautioned against the restoration of aid to the ministry because it would finance the military, not help patients.

# ETHIOPIA

APRIL 2022

## SEIZING THE FRAGILE OPENING FOR PEACE

**W**hile the situation remains fragile, the conditions for peace seem to have ripened in Ethiopia. Seventeen months of brutal civil war in northern Ethiopia have created a ghastly humanitarian crisis. Fighting between Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's federal government and its allies and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) resulted in tens of thousands of deaths, large-scale displacement, economic instability and a devastating famine.

On the battlefields, the pendulum has swung back and forth between the TPLF and the federal forces. Initially, the federal army and its allies defeated Tigrayan forces within three weeks. But the Tigrayans regained control of much of the region in June 2021 and made significant gains into the neighbouring Amhara and Afar regions, and even began marching towards the capital, Addis Ababa. But in November 2021, the federal forces halted the Tigrayan advance to Addis with a drone-assisted military

offensive, which resulted in Tigrayan forces withdrawing into their own region. Federal forces said they would not pursue them into Tigray. Tigrayan forces have since retaken control of certain parts of the neighbouring Afar region. After all this, the two sides appear to have finally realised the writing on the wall: total military victory is beyond reach.

# UGANDA

9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022

## PRESIDENT MUSEVENI CALLS FOR PRIORITIZATION OF SECURITY, PROSPERITY AS DRC JOINS EAC

President Yoweri Museveni has said that to realize meaning full integration of East Africa Community, there is need to prioritize prosperity, markets and security.

The President was speaking at the signing of the accession treaty by the Democratic republic of Congo to the East African Community, which took place today at State House Nairobi.

The East African community is a regional integration of now seven member states namely Uganda, South Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Kenya and the new entrant the Democratic Republic of Congo.

President Museveni said that prosperity, security and market go hand in hand with integration.

“If you want prosperity in Africa, the way forward is markets! To be able to negotiate for bigger markets in Africa and in East Africa. If I am a business man or business woman and I produce a product or service, how many people will buy from me.” he said.

Mr. Museveni reiterated the need

for strategic security calling on member states for a united effort in ensuring security in the region.

“If there is terrorism in Somalia it affects Kenya, if there is a problem in Uganda it affects Kenya, yet we don’t work together to solve it. The problems are Pan African, they are global yet we act parochially,” he said.

President Museveni supported President Uhuru’s suggestion to have Swahili as a common language for East Africa saying that this will go a long way in uniting the people of the region who already share a lot of similarities in language and culture.

President Uhuru Kenyatta, the current chair of the East African community welcomed DRC to the East African community and thanked the Heads of State of member countries for their commitment, guidance and support to realize the vision of the community.

“To get to this commitment it has taken strong leadership and commitment to the ideals of the East African Community mission agenda and a clear understanding

on the shared benefits that come from working together,” he said.

Relatedly he paid glowing tribute to President Museveni for the zeal with which he galvanized support for the DRC to join the East African community.

President Uhuru said that the region has already started realizing the promise of the East African Community evident in the free movement of people, goods and services across the region. He said that this will lead to harnessing of business opportunities, strengthen economic muscle in the region and improve competitiveness of each member state for the benefit of all.

He welcomed President Tshekedi and the people of DRC to the East African community customs union and the East African community Common market which are the signature pillars of the union and the foundation on which the political, social, trade, investment and economic interest stand.

He pledged full cooperation with the new entrant to realize the mission of the East African community.

President Felix Tshisekedi on his part thanked heads of member states for expediting the vetting and negotiation since he applied to join the community and promised to fulfill all the requirements of the accession.

President Paul Kagame of Rwanda welcomed the signing of the accession treaty for DRC saying that for long there has been a lot of talking but its now time to work.

“We have made many speeches but now we must get down to work to put in action the statements we have made” he said.

The East African heads of state also unveiled the new map of the East African community showing the seven member countries. “DRC shares borders with Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda. Her accession to the EA community which has been hitherto been on bilateral level will now be cemented with the hope of maximizing exploitation of both natural and human resources in the region” President Tshisekedi said.

Among those who attended were Members of Parliament, EALA members, members of the diplomatic core, and government officials.

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## SOURCE.

<https://www.mofa.go.ug/data/dnews/831/President%20Museveni%20Calls%20for%20Prioritization%20of%20Security,%20Prosperity%20As%20DRC%20Joins%20EAC.html>

# SELLING KIDNEYS NOW EASIER THAN FINDING JOBS IN UGANDA

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

“Kidney selling is no longer a strange or exotic act. It is now normal”.

The Sunday Vision newspaper of April 10 published a story of a young man from western Uganda who, in 2013, was lured into donating one of his kidneys to his ailing employer in return for hefty rewards in form of land, and other property.

The donation was successfully done in India but sadly for him, none of the promises previously made was fulfilled. And today, 8 years later, he reportedly lives in constant pain and spends about Shs1.5 million per month on dialysis at Kiruddu Hospital. His only hope for justice now lies in the judicial system.

This young man’s story is more common than statistics suggest. Driven by similar lucrative offers, hundreds of desperate Ugandans are reluctantly consenting to giving away their body organs, especially kidneys, all in anticipation of better livelihoods for themselves and their families.

And there are also other harrowing tales of thousands of people tricked or drugged and their organs harvested without their knowledge. People are often coerced to give up their organs, in order to be illegally sold on the black market.

Kidney selling is no longer a strange or exotic act. It is now normal, entrenched and is

regarded as an alternative source of income generation.

The commonest scenario is of vulnerable individuals who are easily convinced to participate in the trade. The pressures are subtle; the coercion hidden. This is mainly due to the high unemployment levels which is forcing many young Ugandans to give up their organs in exchange for ‘quick’ cash.

It is said that an organ buyer spends on average \$150,000 (Shs528m) for vital organs like kidney, liver or heart. For a kidney, a willing donor will usually get between \$5,000 (Shs176m) and \$20,000 (about Shs70m) with the middlemen equally getting their share.

Of course, many Ugandans remain convinced that selling a kidney is a safe and easy way of raising cash. They argue that the medical procedure is an easy one and that somebody can always live a normal life with one kidney.

However, after surgery, many of these kidney donors suffer an alarming rate of post-operative complications and mortalities resulting from mismatched organs and are immobilised with pain, and unable to eat, urinate or defecate.

Also, kidney sellers are often the breadwinner of their families, but the impact of selling a kidney on their physical and mental health

frequently disables them from future work. They suffer social stigma and tend to regret their decisions.

But this gets me thinking: How can we discourage our young people from participating in this inhumane trade when the youth unemployment in Uganda currently stands at over 70 percent; when the youth who are institutionally qualified are unable to find jobs and those that do, are employed in low productivity ventures?

Predictably, most kidney sellers are poor and unemployed. Many are peasants, mental patients or stranded refugees. Most willingly

enter into these ‘transactions’ in which they agree to the terms, which are often verbal, but only realise later how they have been deceived, defrauded or cheated.

Some brokers use underhand tactics. They offer opportunities of working abroad to unemployed youth, household heads in debt or in need of cash to support sick spouses or children.

Therefore, government should develop and implement ethically and clinically sound programmes for organ donations. And this should be supported by similar programmes aimed at curbing the extreme levels of poverty and unemployment in the country.

## SOURCE:

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/oped/commentary/selling-kidneys-now-easier-than-finding-jobs-in-uganda-3793382>



# RWANDA

13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022

## UK TO SEND ASYLUM SEEKERS TO RWANDA FOR PROCESSING

**D**eal to outsource process, described by Labour as ‘unworkable and unethical’, among range of measures to be unveiled.

People seeking asylum in the UK will be flown 4,500 miles to Rwanda as part of a government crackdown on unauthorised migrants to be announced by [Boris Johnson](#). The prime minister is expected to announce a range of measures including putting the navy in charge of Channel operations from Friday and a new reception centre to hold people attempting to enter the UK to aid ending the practice of housing asylum seekers in hotels.

Priti Patel, the home secretary, travelled to the central African country on Wednesday after finalising a “migration and economic development partnership”. The initiative comes as Johnson prepares to disclose further plans on Thursday to break up the business model of people-smuggling gangs and increase UK operations in the Channel.

Referring to UK’s referendum vote to leave the EU, he will say: “We

cannot sustain a parallel illegal system. Our compassion may be infinite, but our capacity to help people is not. “The British people voted several times to control our borders. Not to close them, but to control them.” The deal with Rwanda, which will reportedly cost an initial £120m, follows three years of promises by Patel to outsource asylum processing to third countries and failures to strike deals with Albania and Ghana. It is understood that the deal – described as “unworkable and unethical” by Labour – will mean that people seeking asylum in the UK will face the possibility of being flown to a camp in Rwanda.

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The government is choosing control and punishment above compassion despite the fact its own data shows that two thirds of men, women and children arriving in small boats come from countries where war and persecution has forced them from their homes. “We urge this government to immediately rethink its plans which are in such stark contrast to what every

Conservative prime minister since Churchill has sought to do by providing a fair hearing on British soil for those who claim asylum,” he said. The first reception centre, which will be modelled on the practice in Greece, will be a former RAF base in Linton-on-Ouse, North Yorkshire. Councils will also be given additional funding to disperse destitute migrants.

The government has so far failed to pass the necessary legislation to place so-called offshoring on the statute books. The nationality and borders bill, which will enable asylum seekers to be processed abroad, has not yet gained royal assent. The Rt Revd Paul Butler, the Bishop of Durham, who proposed amendments to the bill, said: “Asylum seekers who arrive on our shores are our international responsibility and should be dealt with in our own land with the

human dignity to which they are entitled.

“There are many questions about the parameters of any offshoring proposal that remain unanswered, including the financial cost, but primarily around the question of dignity.” Denmark has previously struck a deal with the Rwandan government to accept recent migrants. A memorandum of understanding was signed between the two countries last summer – but it remains unclear whether the Danish government has so far sent anyone to Rwanda. Ministers led by Patel have seen Australian-style offshore processing centres – to which migrants would be flown within seven days of arriving in the UK – as a key potential deterrent to stem the record surge in Channel crossings.

Last month, she recruited the former Australian foreign minister Alexander Downer to review the country’s border force, weeks after he had urged the UK to adopt a hard line on boat migrants.

Last year, [Australian government figures](#) showed that the country spent £461m processing 239 refugees and asylum seekers held offshore. More than 4,600 people have arrived in the UK by small boat crossings since the start of the year, according to figures collected by PA news agency. On Wednesday, women and young children were among the passengers of several boatloads of people who crossed the Channel. People in lifejackets and blankets have been seen arriving at Dover on Border Force vessels as well as at Dungeness aboard a RNLI lifeboat.

## SOURCE:

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/apr/13/priti-patel-finalises-plan-to-send-asylum-seekers-to-rwanda>

## PRESIDENT KAGAME ADDRESSES JAMAICAN PARLIAMENT, ROOTS FOR DIRECT COOPERATION

15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022

President Paul Kagame has set the tone for the need to improve direct cooperation between Rwanda and Jamaica based on historical ties.

He was addressing a joint session of the Jamaican parliament on

Thursday, April 14, as part of the agenda during his [three-day visit](#) in the country. The address also came as part of the occasion to celebrate the launch of Jamaica60 in honour of their 60th Independence anniversary due on August 6, this year.

Independence is a date in history but it is also a mindset, said Kagame, adding that the power of an anniversary comes from the opportunity to remind a new generation of the struggles that came before. “From the struggle of independence to the subsequent challenges of nation building, the

Pan-African idea has served as a guide of how things should be, even if we do not always live up to it in practice,” he said.

He added that it is more important to uphold the spirit of self-reliance to sustain and deepen what has been accomplished in the time since. “Whatever we have managed to do for ourselves as a people, we can always do more and better.”

Pointing at different multilateral bodies that both countries belong to, the President said that Africa and Caribbean do not have to relate to each other through intermediaries, even if there is no problem in it, but they could do it otherwise, ‘directly’.

He said that both countries’ diplomats often meet in New York, London or Geneva while young people tend to meet each other only at universities and similar places,

something that can be improved.

“It is high time for Africa and the Caribbean to work together in a direct and sustained manner, both through our representative regional organizations, CARICOM, African Union and bilaterally.”

The first Africa-CARICOM summit last September was [long overdue](#) and must be built upon, he added.

Besides that, the President said that there should be direct people-to-people exchanges particularly for the youth and entrepreneurs. “In Rwanda, we have already had several Jamaican professionals come to our country and make meaningful contributions.”

The Head of State also highlighted key potential areas of cooperation and exchange, stating trade and investment, as well as national unity and citizen development.

“Let’s exchange with each other directly and thereby, honor the history that joins us and make it a potent force of practical cooperation in the modern world,” he emphasized.

Kagame further gave a warm welcome to Jamaican representatives in the upcoming CHOGM 2022 summit, stating that he hopes to see a strong representation from the Commonwealth Caribbean.

“As the newest member of the Commonwealth, Rwanda is proud to host the next Heads of Government Meeting in Kigali in June this year...Africa and Caribbean should work together to advance common positions in these bodies where our interests align as they often do,” he said.

## SOURCE

<https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/president-kagame-addresses-jamaican-parliament-roots-direct-cooperation>

# KAGAME HITS BACK AT CRITICS OF RWANDA-UK MIGRATION DEAL

21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2022

President Paul Kagame has hit back at those who have likened a migration deal recently signed between Rwanda and the UK to trading in human beings. The UK, through the Migration and Economic Development Partnership, seeks to transfer unauthorised migrants and asylum seekers to Rwanda.

President Kagame, who was speaking virtually at a seminar dubbed, 'Rwanda Past and Present', and hosted by Brown University's Watson Institute, noted that the deal was instead an innovative approach designed to help address the global migration crisis. He was Wednesday night fielding questions on a wide range of topics during a conversation moderated by Stephen Kinzer, the

American author of 'A Thousand Hills: Rwanda's Rebirth and the Man Who Dreamed It.'

"We are not trading human beings, please. This is not the case, we are actually helping," he said. "It's a clear-cut issue and it was actually something of an innovation that Rwanda put forth to deal with this migration issue."

Kagame said that people need to go a little bit into history to understand the rationale and context of the migration partnership between Rwanda and the UK.

"This problem of dealing with immigrants doesn't start with what we arrived at as the deal between UK and Rwanda," he said.

He cited a 2018 decision by Rwanda to help find a solution to a humanitarian crisis involving migrants that had unfolded in Libya.

"These people were stuck in Libya; they were trying to cross into Europe. Some (had) already died trying to cross the Mediterranean, others were kept in prison in Libya, in different cities and they were really stuck," the Head of State observed.

He added: "At that time, I was the Chairman of the AU (African Union). And when the issue came up to me, I said, 'well, we are not a rich country, we are not a big country, but there are solutions we can always help find and solve big problems,'" he said.

# SOMALIA

25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022

## MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND LOWLANDS ALLOCATES 338 MILLION ETB FOR DROUGHT-AFFECTED AREAS IN SOMALI REGION

**A**ddis Abeba – The Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands announced that it has allocated 388 million ETB for the rehabilitation of areas affected by drought in the Somali region.

The ministry conducted an informative session in Jijiga in regards to the areas of implementation for the set

finances. It was during the session that it was publicized that the Somali region would receive rehabilitating aid through the project meant for improving livelihoods in lowland regions.

The allotted amount was acquired through the financial assistance from the World Bank, according to the Ministry. Present at the said session were Mustafe

Mohammed, president of the Somali region, Engineer Aisha Mohammed, minister of Irrigation and Lowlands, as well as other officials from the federal and regional levels.

# KENYA

21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2022

## MWAI KIBAKI: KENYA'S FIRST OPPOSITION PRESIDENT DIES AGED 90

Kenya's former president, Mwai Kibaki, has died at the age of 90, President Uhuru Kenyatta has announced. His 2002 election ended 40 years of one-party rule since independence. However, his 2007 re-election sparked months of nationwide violence and led to 1,200 deaths.

President Kenyatta, defeated by Mr Kibaki in 2002, led the tribute to his former rival, saying he had "led the charge to keep the ruling party accountable".

Mr Kibaki had "earned the abiding respect and affection" of this nation, the president continued.

Mr Kenyatta declared a mourning period until Mr Kibaki's burial, with flags flying at half-mast. He will be given a state funeral with full military honours, President Kenyatta said.

Many Kenyans are expressing a real sense of loss and regard Mr Kibaki as the best president Kenya has had since independence.

He was a sharp economist who set the country on a path of economic growth. He held a number of

senior positions in treasury and government in his political career that spanned decades.

Politically, however, he was regarded as a non-confrontational fence-sitter and opportunist. He opposed the introduction of multiparty democracy but jumped ship after the constitution was amended. He then embraced it, formed his own political party and, 10 years later, went on to win the election as head of an opposition coalition.

Both traits would be seen during his tenure as president. Kenya recorded one of its highest rates of GDP growth during his first term, before the violence of the 2007 election severely dented his legacy.

As well as his economic record, one of his biggest achievements was to introduce free primary education to Kenya.

Under his watch, Kenya also gained a new constitution, after it was overwhelmingly approved in a national referendum in 2010. It was billed by some at the time as the most important political

event in Kenya's history since it gained independence from Britain in 1963.

It introduced a more decentralised political system and limited presidential powers.

His biggest failure was the fight against corruption. He'd promised to fight it, but his government was rocked by major corruption scandals.

But the 2007-2008 election violence after a disputed vote was the worst in the country's history and the lowest point of his presidency. Not only were more than 1,200 lives lost, but more than half a million people were forced from their homes.

During the violence there were hundreds of rapes and more than 100,000 properties were destroyed, according to the International Criminal Court (ICC). It charged leading politicians with orchestrating the violence but neither Mr Kibaki nor opposition leader Raila Odinga was among them.

The electoral commission, under tight police security, declared



Mr Kibaki the winner of the vote, although Mr Odinga alleged widespread fraud. President Kibaki was sworn in hurriedly for the second term as the country descended into violence.

An investigation led by former South African judge Johann Krieglar determined that both sides had participated in electoral

malpractices in different regions which made it impossible to determine who had won that election.

The violence was eventually ended in a power-sharing deal brokered by former UN secretary general Kofi Annan, which saw Mr Odinga become prime minister.

Mr Odinga has joined those mourning the death of his former rival, describing it as “a very sad occasion for the nation” and saying Mr Kibaki had “served this country for many years with diligence, with fortitude, with honesty and transparency”. He is survived by four children.

**SOURCE:**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-61188963>

## KENYANS PAY TRIBUTE AS MWAI KIBAKI’S BODY LIES IN STATE FOR SECOND DAY

26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022

**K**enyans this morning turned out in large numbers to pay [their last respects](#) to Kenya’s third President Mwai Kibaki.

Kibaki’s body is lying in state for the second day at Parliament Buildings. Tomorrow will be the last day of public viewing.

The former head-of-state will be accorded a [national state](#)

[funeral](#) with [full military honours](#) and protocols at Nyayo National Stadium on Friday. These include conveyance of the body in a Gun Carriage, accompanied by Military Musical Honours and a 19 gun-salute. The retired President will be buried at his Othaya home on Saturday.

[Just like on Monday](#), the former President’s body was in the early morning carried in a gun carriage

from Lee Funeral Home to Parliament for public viewing. The former President’s casket was draped with the national flag as it snaked its way to Parliament.

Kenyans from all walks of life braved the chilly weather as they patiently queued to have a chance to pay their last respects to the former head of state.

**SOURCE:**

<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/national/article/2001444099/photos-kenyans-pay-tribute-as-kibakis-body-lies-in-state-for-second-day>

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P.O. BOX 619, Hai Jebrona, Adjacent to Martyrs School,  
Opposite Simba Playground, Juba, South Sudan.  
Tel: +211 (0) 920 310 415 | +211 (0) 915 652 847  
<https://csps.org.ss>