



PRESS RELEASE

State Visit to Kenya by Their Majesties, the King and Queen of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

NAIROBI – 17 MARCH, 2025

The Government of Kenya is honored to welcome Their Majesties, King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, for a State Visit from 18th to 20th March, 2025 at the invitation of His Excellency President William Ruto. This visit highlights the strong diplomatic ties and long-standing cooperation that has existed between Kenya and the Netherlands, spanning more than sixty years

The King and Queen will be accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Caspar Veldkamp, the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development, Reinette Klever, and the Minister of Defence, Ruben Brekelmans, who will in their various capacities attend different events.

During their stay, Their Majesties will engage in high-level meetings with His Excellency President William Ruto and senior government officials to explore opportunities for further collaboration on key issues such as trade, investment, climate action, and sustainable development. The visit aims to enhance economic partnerships and deepen bilateral relations in areas including agriculture, water resource management, renewable energy, and technological innovation.

Their Majesties will also meet with Kenyan business leaders, civil society representatives, and academic stakeholders to reinforce people-to-people connections between the two nations. Additionally, they will tour select projects that demonstrate the Netherlands' commitment to Kenya's progress in areas such as financial inclusion, youth empowerment, and gender equality.

Key highlights of the State Visit which commences on the 18th March, 2025 include:

1. A ceremonial welcome at State House, Nairobi which will be followed by bilateral meetings and the witnessing of the signing of various Memoranda of Understanding and thereafter a press briefing;
2. Laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the unknown Soldier at the Uhuru Gardens Museum to be followed by a tree planting ceremony within

Kiambu County. The Royal Couple will be hosted by President William Ruto and First Lady Mama Racheal Ruto for a State Banquet later in the evening.

3. King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima are expected to attend a Business Forum focusing on the strong economic ties between the Netherlands and Kenya. The business Forum will see the participation of various Kenya and Dutch businesses, including academic institutions and NGOs;
4. The Royal Couple will also undertake field visits to various initiatives exemplifying the longstanding Dutch-Kenyan partnership in sustainable development and cultural events celebrating the shared values and heritage of both countries. The Royal Couple will depart for The Netherlands on the 20th March, 2025.

The Royal Couple's historic visit builds on a rich history of friendly relations, aiming to reinforce collaboration and shared goals of prosperity, sustainability, and global cooperation. It must be emphasised that this is the first State Visit that Kenya is hosting this year and it is symbolic of the relations that have existed between the people of Kenya and the Netherlands.

The Kenya-Dutch relations date back to 1906 when the first Dutch nationals arrived in Kenya, establishing roots in Uasin Gishu County. Formal diplomatic ties were subsequently established in the early 1970s.

Among the projects The Netherlands Government has invested in Kenya include the Lake Turkana Wind Power which remains the largest windfarm in Africa with 365 turbines generating 310MW, contributing 15 per cent of Kenya's total electricity capacity. The Wind power project is located on the shores of Lake Turkana with an acreage of 20,000 hectares.

The windfarm project idea interestingly originated from a Dutch farmer living in Kenya, who recognised the powerful wind resource and great potential investment opportunity.

The Netherlands Government has also invested heavily in agricultural research and environmental projects and remains the top importer of Kenyan flowers. Kenya sends approximately a billion stems annually to world's largest auction in The Hague. These are then re-exported to the global markets. Kenya also exports coffee, tea, fruits, vegetables, fish and tobacco to the Netherlands, while importing machinery, data processing equipment, chemicals and dairy products.

The Netherlands Government also supports the Security and Rule of Law program, which seeks to promote inclusive access to justice with a focus on the vulnerable and marginalized; institutional strengthening of the Judiciary; strengthening civil society organizations as watchdogs on the implementation of the constitution, and support free and fair elections through civic education and empowerment of women to vie for elective positions. There are also joint initiatives within the dairy, horticulture and aquaculture sub-sectors aimed at enhancing Kenya's food security programs.

For Further inquiries, please contact

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