



## **PRESS RELEASE**

State Visit to Kenya by His Excellency President Alexander Stubb and Mrs. Suzanne Innes-Stubb of the Republic of Finland.

### **NAIROBI – 11<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2025**

The Government of Kenya is honored to welcome His Excellency President Alexander Stubb and Mrs. Suzanne Innes-Stubb of the Republic of Finland, for a State Visit from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May, 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 Finland, spanning sixty years.

President Stubb will be accompanied on the state visit by Member of Parliament, Chair of the Parliamentary Friendship Group with Kenya Ms. Saara-Sofia Sirén, and Member of Parliament, Vice Chair of the Finnish Parliament Group on Global Issues Ms. Inka Hopsu, as well as a Finnish business delegation with representatives from a wide range of business sectors.

During their stay, the Presidential Couple will engage in high-level meetings with His Excellency President William Ruto and senior government officials in a bid to strengthen the bilateral relations between Finland and Kenya, explore global challenges and their impact in Africa and Europe, and seek cooperation in support of the multilateral system.

The Presidential Couple 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 Finland's commitment to Kenya's progress in areas such as education and sustainable development.

The visit of President Stubb is the first presidential visit from Finland to Kenya.

### **Key highlights of the State Visit which commences on the 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 include:**

1. A ceremonial welcome at State House, Nairobi which will be followed by discussions between the Presidents focussing on the bilateral relations between Finland and Kenya;
2. Laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Uhuru Gardens National Monuments and Museums. The Presidential Couple will be hosted by President William Ruto and First Lady Mama Racheal Ruto for a State Banquet later in the evening.
3. President Stubb's agenda features a visit to several technical education institutions funded by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The

President will also visit an institution of higher learning where he is expected to give a speech on geopolitics and the transformation of the multilateral order. He will then attend the closing event of the EU-Kenya Business Forum where he will deliver a keynote address;

4. On the last day of the State Visit, President Stubb will meet with the Director-General of the UN Office in Nairobi, UNON, and the Executive Directors of UNEP and UN-Habitat.
5. The Presidential Couple will depart for Finland on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2025.

The Presidential Couple's historic visit to Kenya aims to strengthen friendly relations and promote prosperity, sustainability, and global cooperation. This is Kenya's second State Visit this year, symbolizing the long-standing relationship between Kenya and Finland.

Finland recognised Kenya's independence on December 13, 1963, and Diplomatic relations between the two nations were established on June 14, 1965. The Kenya Embassy in Stockholm covers Finland, while Finland has an Embassy in Nairobi and an Honorary Consulate in Mombasa.

Over the past five years, Finland's bilateral cooperation in Kenya has mainly focused on improving women's opportunities for participation in society, countering Gender based violence, and developing the skills of young people through Technical Training Institutions (TVETs). The Finnish Embassy in Nairobi is enhancing Kenyan TVET institutions' capacity to train students in agribusiness, focusing on digitization and connecting students with companies to encourage farming.

Other areas that the Finnish government is engaged in Kenya include; provision of development financing through Finfund which provides long-term loans and venture capital to private companies. It has also lent support for Menegai geothermal power project in Nakuru county, Lake Turkana wind-power (LTWP) in Turkana County; Fertiliser and insect-based animal feed derived from waste.

Hitachi Finland is supporting the upgrading the Ruaraka power substation to improve reliability and electricity supply, while Kauko Finland is implementing technology and tools to improve water safety, security, and climate change resilience in Kenya. Finland is also supporting several gender-based violence (GBV) response and prevention programs in Samburu, Bungoma, and Kilifi.

### **For Further inquiries, please contact**

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