

**POLITICS MINISTRIES**



**TOURISM SUMMIT**

# Be fair on travel advisories, Kenya tells the West

CS Balala says attacks in France and Belgium were major, surprised minor cases in Kenya get 'punished'

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The Kenyan government has accused the West of applying "double standards" in the issuance of travel advisories.

Tourism CS Najib Balala yesterday said it is unfortunate the developed nations call for travel advisories whenever "minor incidents" occur, thus adversely affecting tourism.

The tourism sector has faced dwindling fortunes and the CS blamed this on the fear caused when Western governments warn their citizens against coming to this country.

"I felt sad when France and Belgium were attacked. We were told to stand with them and we did. The attacks were major," he said during the Tourism Summit at State House, Mombasa.

"I was surprised when advisories were issued when some Kenyans demonstrated against the electoral body."

British High Commissioner Nic Hailey, who was present, was taken to task to explain the rush by his country to issue advisories. He said political violence keeps away tourists and security is paramount for any nation.

"We have some travel advisories in parts of Kenya but not Mombasa. Kenya has made progress," he said.

The summit focused on marketing and innova-

tion, and services and products in the hospitality industry and the way forward. On Tuesday, the CS said the government is keen on revamping the industry.

Balala said the number of tourists increased by 13.8 per cent between January and June. He said revenue was Sh47 billion, better than the Sh37 billion collected in 2015 during the same period. "We need to improve our domestic market," he said.

The CS said a cruise tourism terminal at the Port of Mombasa will be launched by October next year.

Balala said the first berth will be upgraded to a cruise ship terminal. He said last year, the country had 7,000 tourists using cruise ships.

"The Ministry will tender for renovations and by August 2017, it will be ready. There is a lot of interest in cruise tourism," Balala said.

The summit, the first to be held outside Nairobi, brought together the private sector, the government, and other non-state actors.

Attendants included tour operators, hoteliers, diplomats, travel agents, taxi drivers and beach operators.

The CS said the European market has declined by 20 per cent, hence the need to take advantage of the African market.

He said security, infrastructure, marketing and funding are key to ensuring tourism thrives. "We have Sh1.5 billion for promotion and marketing. We are picking up again in 2016."

Tourism CS Najib Balala with British High Commissioner to Kenya Nic Hailey at the Tourism Summit at State House, Mombasa, yesterday /MKAMBURI MWAMASI

**LAND FEUD**

## NLC says miner free to resume

Operations were stopped to resolve rancher's grievances

The National Lands Commission has allowed the Wanjala Mining Company to extract iron ore from Kishushie Ranching Cooperative Society land in Taita Taveta.

Environment and Natural Resources director Leonard Omullo yesterday said the company was cleared of wrongdoing by a task force formed to investigate the legitimacy of its mining license by former Mining CS Najib Balala. "According to the recommendations, the management complied with all relevant requirements, including a valid mining license from the government," he said.

The company's license was among 300 cancelled in 2013. Their operations were stopped. "The ministry received many complaints from local communities and leaders, mineral rights holders and other stakeholders," Balala said when he revoked the licences. "Despite the Ministry's efforts to resolve the issues, they persisted and stalled exploration and mining activities."

Omullo said the commission did not find a conflict between the ranch and the investor. "We want justice to be done to the investor," he said. But the ranch management disputed the assertion, saying the investor's lease expires today and has to be renewed. "We have a title deed. We are waiting for the investor to apply for the consent. If he fails, we'll give the consent to another interested investor," ranch director Benedict Mwabili told a public hearing at the Kishushie trading centre yesterday.

Company MD Kasim Muhammad appeared separately before a public inquiry carried out by the Kenya National Commission for Human Rights on mining and its impact on the enjoyment of human rights at the Rutkanga trading centre. He said it was issued with a mining consent by the now-defunct Taita-Taveta county council in 2006 and the Local Government ministry approved its 20-year lease.

"In 2009, the ranch complained that we were illegally extracting iron ore. It couldn't prove it. Both parties went to court," the investor said. "We've suffered because of the endless land disputes. Residents have also lost their jobs."

**"THE COMPANY WAS CLEARED OF WRONGDOING BY A TASK FORCE FORMED BY THE CS"**



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### TENDER NOTICE

The County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet hereby invites sealed bids from **qualified consultancy firms for the execution and completion of various consultancy assignments.**

For further details and clarification visit procurement offices during normal working hours as from **31<sup>st</sup> August 2016**. You are also notified that you may download the respective tender documents from our website: [www.elgeyomarakwet.go.ke](http://www.elgeyomarakwet.go.ke). **Tender closing date will be on 14th September 2016 at 10.00am.**

**DIRECTOR SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT FOR: COUNTY SECRETARY.**



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