

our country, and lack of confidence in our troops and their contribution to regional peace processes.”

“The Government of Kenya is convinced that the manner in which the United Nations and its Independent Special Investigation have handled this grave matter, will not address the root causes of the unfortunate incidences in South Sudan nor does it offer a sustainable solution to the recurring violence in South Sudan,” read a statement released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

“What is clear is that UNMISST suffers from fundamental structural and systemic dysfunctionality, which has severely hindered its ability to discharge its mandate since its inception.”

It Gen Ondieki's removal was announced on Tuesday shortly after the release of a special report on Unmiss' performance during a July attack on civilians at the Hotel Terrain in South Sudan's capital, Juba.

“The special investigation found that Unmiss did not respond effectively to the

preparedness and integration among the various components of the mission,” UN

spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters. The report itself cited “a lack of leadership on the part of key senior mission personnel (that) culminated in a chaotic and ineffective response to the violence.”

“During the attack,” the report stated, “civilians were subjected to and witnessed gross human rights violations, including murder, intimidation, sexual violence and acts amounting to torture perpetrated by armed government soldiers.”

The UN force “did not operate under a unified command, resulting in multiple and sometimes conflicting orders to the four troop contingents from China, Ethiopia, Nepal and India,” according to the report.

The disorganisation and confused response resulted in “underusing the more than 1,800 infantry troops” present in the vicinity of the Terrain Hotel, the report added.

KWS reduces park entry fees after VAT exemption

BY KARIE NIROGE

The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) has cut park entry fees, capping them at Sh860 for adult Kenyans and \$60 (Sh6,000) for non-resident adults.

The new charges, effective from November 1, follow the government's decision to exempt national parks and game reserves from the 16 per cent Value Added Tax (VAT) on entry fees.

The changes are contained in the Finance Act that President Uhuru Kenyatta signed into law on September 13.

“This move is expected to make KWS parks and reserves competitive in the region and globally, thus attracting a bigger number of both domestic and international tourists,” KWS said

in a statement. “KWS is glad to report that visitation to her parks and reserves has increased tremendously in the recent past.” A schedule of fees shows that the highest entry fee will be for entry to Amboseli and Nakuru national parks, which are classified as premium parks.

Kenyan adults will pay Sh860 while children will pay Sh215. Non-resident adults will pay \$60 while children will part with \$35 (Sh3,500).

The second tier parks, which are classified as wilderness parks, attract varying charges. Kenyans visiting Tsavo East and West will pay Sh515 and children Sh215 while non-resident adults will pay \$52 (Sh5,200) and children \$35.

In Meru, Aberdare and Mt Kenya

parks the entry fee will be Sh300 for adults and Sh215 for children. Entry to Nairobi National Park will now cost Sh415 for adults and Sh215 for children. Non-residents will pay \$43 (Sh4,300) and \$22 (Sh2,200) for children.

Kenya's game parks remain some of the most attractive in the country's tourism packages alongside coastal sandy beaches. The removal of VAT from park entry fees was initiated by Mr Kenyatta in January as one of the measures aimed at boosting tourism.

Data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics shows the local tourism industry's earning declined last year to Sh84.6 billion from Sh87.1 billion in 2014 mainly on adverse travel advisories issued in foreign source markets.