



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY WILLIAM
RUTO, PhD, CGH; PRESIDENT AND COMMANDER-
IN-CHIEF OF THE KENYA DEFENCE FORCES
DURING THE CELEBRATIONS OF THE DIWALI
FESTIVAL 2024**

OCTOBER 30, 2024

STATE HOUSE, NAIROBI

1. I am honoured to host you today as we celebrate an occasion that symbolises the values binding us together as Kenyans.
2. Diwali, the Festival of Lights, marks the start of a new business year. It reminds us of the enduring power of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance and hope over despair.
3. These values transcend any single culture. They resonate with all of us and drive our collective efforts to build a prosperous Kenya.
4. I am humbled to be associated with a festival that has a history spanning over 5,000 years. I feel both privileged and proud that our country is enriched with such a wealth of cultures and traditions.
5. The Indian community in Kenya, often referred to as Kenyan Asians, consists of citizens and residents with ancestral roots in the Indian sub-continent. Significant Indian migration began with the establishment of the British East Africa Protectorate in 1895. Since then, they have become an integral part of our nation, playing a key role in our nation-building and economic growth.
6. I encourage members of the Indian community to continue investing in and contributing to the growth of Kenya as we build our homeland together.



7. As we light these lamps, let us also renew our commitment to creating a more inclusive and harmonious society.
8. In a country as diverse as ours, we debate, we celebrate, we express dissent, and we commemorate. But we never lose sight of how we arrived here and why. We should take pride in our diversity, our tolerance and our achievements as a nation.
9. May these lights guide us toward a future filled with hope, compassion and unity. I wish each of you a very happy Diwali filled with peace, prosperity and joy. To all those celebrating this joyous occasion, I extend warm Diwali wishes to you, your families and your loved ones.

Thank you.

