



PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: POSTPONEMENT OF FESTAC AFRICA FESTIVAL IN KISUMU AS A COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT FLOOD CRISIS IN THE COUNTY

Kisumu was poised to host the 5th World Blacks and Africa Festival of Arts and Culture - FESTAC AFRICA from 20th -26th May, 2024.

Preparations have been in top gear with many delegates from across Africa and the world confirming participation in this epic celebration of African heritage, Culture, Sports-including the East African Community games and sustainable growth which serves as a convergence point for diverse cultures.

We however regret to announce that this festival has now been postponed due to aggravated and unpredictable weather conditions in Kisumu County and the rest of Kenya, following heavy rainfall and massive flooding that has killed more than 200 people.

Safety on highways connecting the Capital city Nairobi with Kisumu and other Western Kenya towns have remained a source of grave concern because the floods continue to destroy bridges and wash away roads. Deadly landslides have been reported in many parts along the highways, putting the lives of travelers at risk.

Some of the venues booked for FESTAC along the shores of Lake Victoria have been flooded, due to back flow from the lake, rendering them inaccessible.

Furthermore, the County Government is battling a serious humanitarian crisis after the floods displaced more than 15,000 people and destroyed crops worth over 60 million in all the 8 Sub-Counties.

Having considered the magnitude of the festival and levels of risks linked to the bad weather conditions, as predicted by the meteorological department, the County leadership and the FESTAC Organizing Committee have resolved to POSTPONE the festival to **25th August-1st September, 2024**. All other arrangements, including the speakers, programs and guest lists remain the same.

We take this opportunity to sincerely apologize to all sponsors, Corporate partners, organizations, individuals and exhibitors who had spent huge resources to prepare for this event. Kindly accept our APOLOGIES.

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We therefore humbly plead with service providers -including Airlines and hotels that had booked in the delegates for the festival not to cancel the bookings but transfer them in-line with the new dates, as part of compassion with all those inconvenienced by the turn of events.

We remain committed to delivering the best 5th World Blacks and Africa festival of Arts and Culture- FESTAC AFRICA festival 2024.

Kind Regards,

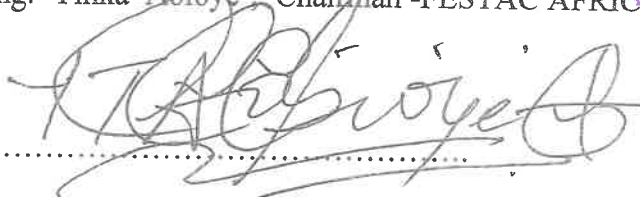
Signed:

1. Mr Philip Adundo- Chairman, FESTAC AFRICA FESTICA Kisumu Festival Steering Committee



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2. Eng. Yinka Abioye- Chairman -FESTAC AFRICA International



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Dated : 11th May, 2024

For more information, kindly contact Ms Grace Mumo, the Festac CEO on 0722759050

NOTE TO EDITORS ABOUT FESTAC AFRICA FESTIVAL

The FESTAC AFRICA FESTIVAL is an unparalleled celebration of African heritage, unity, and sustainable growth serving as a convergence point for diverse cultures and industries.

The FESTAC AFRICA Festival aims celebrate our uniqueness and identity while promoting Intra-Africa trade and creating a networking business platform across the world. This week-long event normally provides an excellent opportunity for participants to showcase their culture through music, fashion, dancing, and food, as well as to engage in meaningful discussions on investment and bilateral trade opportunities.