



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KWS blocks citizens and media from entering Nairobi National Park

22nd July 2026

Co-petitioners on one of Kenya's largest citizen-led cases against the Kenyan government's destruction of Nairobi National Park were yesterday barred from entering the park.

The Environment and Land Court had on 15th July directed “...the Deputy Registrar of this Court to visit the Park in the presence of all the parties, and to prepare and file a report of the said visit before the matter proceeds to hearing (on 23rd July)”. These orders were as a result from a **case filed by over 4,600 Kenyans**, asking the Environment and Land Court to hold the Government of Kenya accountable by stopping ongoing development within Nairobi National Park.

The co-petitioners arrived at the park at the designated time, only to be **subjected to intimidation and threats by masked, armed service personnel of KWS**. Matters escalated when these same personnel then tried ejecting the co-petitioners from the KWS headquarters premises. This course of action stands at odds with KWS' open invitation to the media to be part of the site visit. **What possible sense does it make to block the co-petitioners from being part of the site visit, yet openly inviting the media to be part of the same?** There can only be one conclusion – **KWS wanted to control the narrative and ensure the voice of Kenyans was not heard by the courts or the media while on site.**

KWS finally allowed the co-petitioners to enter the park – only once the court officers, KWS representatives, members of the media, and the sole legal representative of the co-petitioners who they allowed to enter the park, had completed the site visit.

Yesterday's incident and conduct by KWS is indicative of their continued lack of transparency, contempt for public participation, and a disposition to use force when they don't get their way. What is even more concerning, by acting in this way, KWS has shown complete and utter disregard for the sanctity of a court order,

creating a public relations exercise from what should have been a site visit conducted in the public interest. This follows the use of excessive force and arrests of peaceful protesters several weeks ago.

We condemn these actions and behaviour by KWS in the strongest terms. We call on the courts to reaffirm their commitment to the rule of law and ensure court orders are respected in their entirety. We further urge the courts to ensure that citizens are able to fully exercise their rights to hold government institutions to account.

Video of the incident can be found [here](#).

Case Summary

- **Petitioners:** 4,642 Kenyan citizens.
- **The Case:** ELCEPPET/E037/2026. Initially filed in Kajiado on 29th June 2026, transferred to Nairobi on 1st July 2026. Next court date: 23rd July.
- **Matter:** Petition concerning ongoing developments within Nairobi National Park.
- **Primary relief sought:** Orders to protect the park from illegal and unlawful development.

For further information:

savennp.org

Email: fonna1@gmail.com with a copy to info@pilae.org