

**28<sup>th</sup> October 2025.**

**STATEMENT ON LIFTING OF THE BAN ON LOGGING IN MAU  
FOREST**

**The United Green Movement Party (UGM), is a Green political party that promises total inclusivity, promotes ecological wisdom and sustainable development as principles of governance enshrined in the *preamble and articles 10, 42 and 69* of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. In this context, we draw the attention of Kenyans, and the global community at large, that yesterday, H.E. President Ruto ordered the lifting of the ban on logging at the Mau Forest complex, ostensibly to boost the local furniture industry. Ironically, the President lifted the ban on logging while officiating the launch of the *Mau Forest Complex Integrated Conservation and Livelihood Improvement Programme*. Elsewhere, his Principal Secretary for Interior was launching a program to step-up the fight against water scarcity, with its attendant climate-induced conflicts! So, on the one hand this government appreciates that water-scarcity induces environmental conflicts, because of environmental degradation, while on the other hand, it creates an environmental disaster by destroying Kenya's most critical water tower, all literally happening on the same day! What does paradox look like?! A government so inconsistent within itself, or maybe for them these are just projects or programs on the get-go? Talk of double-speak and deceit!**

**The Mau Forest Complex which consists of 33,000 ha is East Africa's largest remaining indigenous and Kenya's leading water tower. It is**

**not just a forest but the country's lifeline! Its catchment area feeds 12 major rivers, sustaining human populations in many counties such as Narok, Bomet, Kericho, Kajiado, Nakuru and Nairobi Counties. It is not only vital to farmers, pastoralists or urban people but also wildlife, supporting some of Kenya's most iconic assets: the Maasai Mara Reserve, Lake Nakuru National Park, Sondu-Miriu Hydropower plant and the Kericho tee estates.**

**The Mau Forest is virtually the lungs of our business as a country. It provides tourism revenue, jobs, food, water and electricity. It should be remembered that over 40% of the original Mau Forest has been lost since independence, following decades of indiscriminate logging of the said forest, encroachment and land grabbing by known political elites. Conservation efforts of the Mau Forest began in 2009, including a logging ban, led by the Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga. This conservation and restoration efforts were occurring amid sharp opposition and politicization by politicians led by President Ruto. These conservation efforts were reinforced by the Uhuru Kenyatta Government.**

**But now, as is characteristic of the leadership of President Ruto, it is not surprising that while he globe-trots and talks big on climate change and conservation, he is now presiding over the next wave of devastating destruction of the Mau Forest! President Ruto who has been positioning himself as Africa's leading climate and conservation political champion,**



**(leading Kenya towards the ambitious goal of growing 15 billion trees by 2032) is paradoxically allowing the destruction of the endangered Mau Forest complex! Barely before it can even fully regenerate.**

**The big question is why lift the ban now and who benefits? Contrary to his assertions of doing this to spur livelihoods of Kenyans especially in the furniture industry, there is more than meets the eye, in what is informing the deliberate destruction of a key water tower, and one of East Africa's most important Ecosystems. There is also no empirical evidence to show that this lift of the logging ban was informed by any meaningful, public and scientific environmental impact assessment.**

**As a Green Political Party, run on the ideology of ecocentrism, we urge ALL Kenyans to say a big NO to this lifting of the logging ban by President Ruto. We urge them to work in concert to defeat President Ruto at the ballot in 2027, by electing and ushering in a green government that prioritizes our environment and creation of green jobs for our millions of unemployed youth.**

**As a Party, we shall continue to support all political-legal efforts to challenge this move in our courts of law. We urge Kenyans not to allow President Ruto to suffocate the country's lungs and shut down its ecological and economic lifeline for the benefit of timber billionaires!**

**Mr. Katto Wambua & Ms. Sialo Tasur,  
CO-SECRETARY GENERALS, UGM PARTY**