

# COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### STOP THIS ETHNIC CONFLICT IN SONDU

For the past two days, there has been mayhem at Sondu market and along the Kisumu-Kericho border which has resulted into deaths, injuries, destruction of property and displacement of several families.

I have been in constant contact with the Kisumu County Security and administration officers to ensure there is peace and security in Sondu.

The affected areas however remain tense as more families, especially on the Kisumu side flee their homes. A large number of livestock have been forcefully taken from their owners.

Economic activities in the usually bustling Sondu market has been severely affected and many families are now starving as the security situation continue to deteriorate.

As leaders from Kisumu County, we wish to condemn the skirmishes in the strongest terms possible and state as follows:

1. We protest at the conduct of the police deployed to quell the skirmishes. We have received reports on their partisan behaviour and witnessed them standing by, unperturbed as youths, armed with arrows and other crude weapons from the Kericho side, march into Sondu market to attack traders. We expected the police to have blocked, disarmed and arrested them.
2. The National government must move with speed to deploy neutral police officers to investigate what sparked the flare-ups and protect residents from both sides.
3. As we investigate the real cause of these conflicts that have claimed lives, and for the sake of peace and good neighbourliness, we appeal for calm and an immediate ceasefire.
4. We call on leaders from the Kericho side to show leadership and ask their people to lay down arms and allow structured discussions to address the reasons behind the conflict.

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Governor, Kisumu County