

SCRIPT SCRAP METAL EXPORT BAN KENYA

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PRESENTATION

An unrest is growing among scrap metal dealers in Kenya.
In this sector many people are working who cannot find employment elsewhere.
But the Kenyan minister of Finance has banned the export on scrap copper and aluminium.
To end the theft of electricity wires and transformers.
Which is a common practice in the Third World East African country.
The scrap dealers are even willing to go to court to have the ban revoked.

BETA

SOUNDBITE HAMEREN

These men can lay down their hammers if the ban remains in place.
Here at the export company Roma in Nairobi some 50 people are employed.
Owner Ishra Sumra is aware of the theft of wires and transformers.
But he thinks a total ban is foolish.

QUOTE IRSHA SUMRA, owner Roma Metals

***The scrap we are exporting from Kenya does not belong to Kenya Power en Telkom.
So why should we suffer?***

He's exporting 250 tons of copper monthly, worth 1 million Dollars.
Aluminium is about 150 tons monthly for 150,000 Dollars.
The scrap metal is collected by people from the streets and dump sites.

QUOTE IRSHA SUMRA

***They collect plastic, steel, paper, even bones.
They sell it and that's they earn their livelihoods.***

The owner says he wants to protect these people.
Like David Mwangi who just came from neighbouring Tanzania.
With copper he cannot sell anymore.

QUOTE DAVID MWANGI

***I am the bread winner of the family.
My mother looks at me.
My three children look at me.
Also my wife.
So now, what are we going to do?***

Since the ban Sumra get many phone calls from worried suppliers.

SOUNDBITE TELEFOON

So let's meet tomorrow and talk about a way forward.

The idea is to have a meeting with the concerned minister.
If that doesn't help, the scrap dealers might to go to court.

QUOTE IRSHA SUMRA

***It is our right to do business.
It is our right to make sure these people who bring to us are fed.
Scrap is a cash business. When they bring to us we give them cash,
and they go and bring more scrap.***

Hundred thousands of people in Kenya survive on this business.