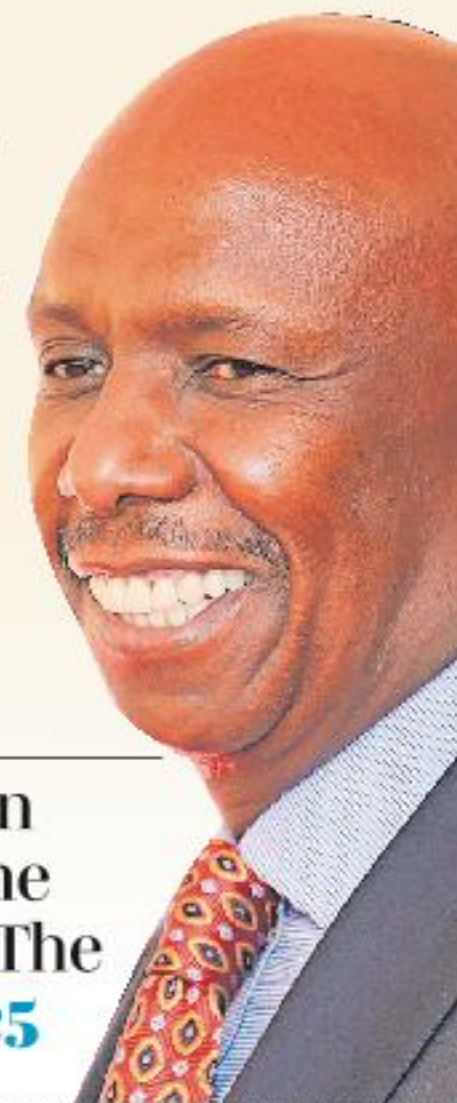


# DAILY NATION

**Truce** President and Kanu leader set to cement deal after burying the hatchet

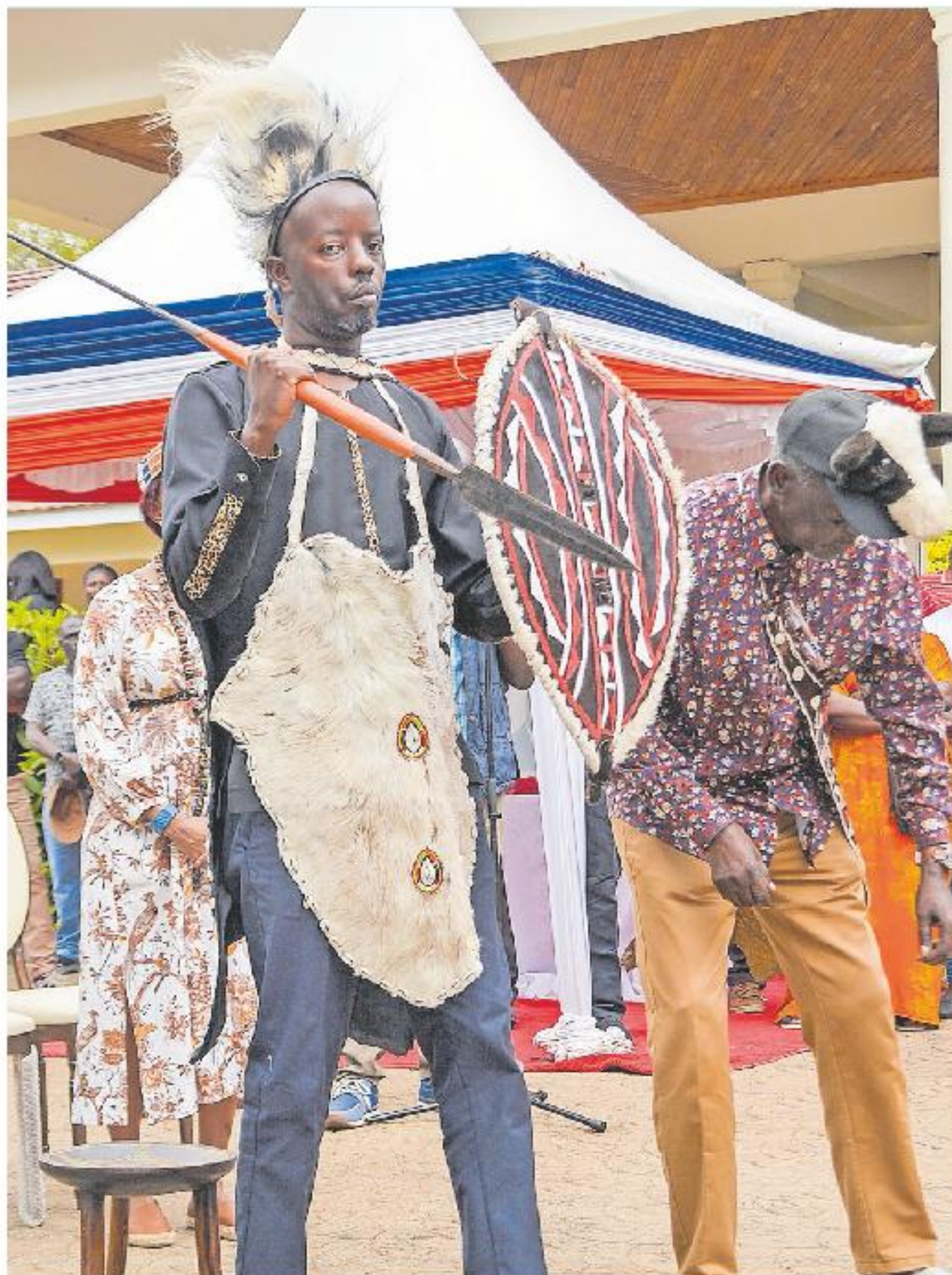
## Another Cabinet reshuffle looms

**Power games** Technical teams appointed by President Ruto and Kanu chairman Gideon Moi are working on the finer details of an agreement for members of the independence party to secure State appointments, including Cabinet positions. The death of ODM leader Raila Odinga is also likely to influence the changes. **P. 4&5**



### Junior school teachers' fight for autonomy goes to court

**P.8** The teachers have asked the court to stop implementation of the Comprehensive Schools policy, which places pre-primary, primary and junior secondary schools under one head teacher. They argue the rule violates the law.



### Raila son installed as head of family

Raila Junior undergoes a traditional ritual during his installation as the head of the family four days after the burial of his father, former prime minister Raila Odinga, at their Opada Farm home in Bondo, Siaya County, yesterday.

Story on Page 10

ALEX ODHIAMBO | NATION

### NATIONAL NEWS

Pressure mounting for the release of two Kenyans still missing in Uganda



The families of Bob Njagi and Nicholas Oyoo are pleading with the governments of Kenya and Uganda to help find the two activists who were abducted in Kampala three weeks ago. A Ugandan court has dismissed a petition on the duo. / **P.2**

### ADVENTURE

The daring Kiligrit team recently headed down south to size up the colossal coastline sand dunes of Namibia.

Read their captivating story on pages 28-29 >>



**FIXING THE NATION**

WEEKDAYS 6AM - 10AM

**PRAISE BREAK**

WEEKDAYS 4AM - 6AM

**VIBE Shift**

WEEKDAYS 10AM - 2PM

**RIDE N' VIBE**

WEEKDAYS 4PM - 8PM

**ROCKERS Nation**

WEEKDAYS 8PM - 12AM

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STREAM www.ntvkenya.co.ke

# National News

**Justice** Pressure groups are gathering signatures to push Ugandan authorities to free their colleagues

## Pained plea of a desperate father

Activist Bob Njagi's father hopeful that his son and his colleague, abducted in Kampala weeks ago, will be set free

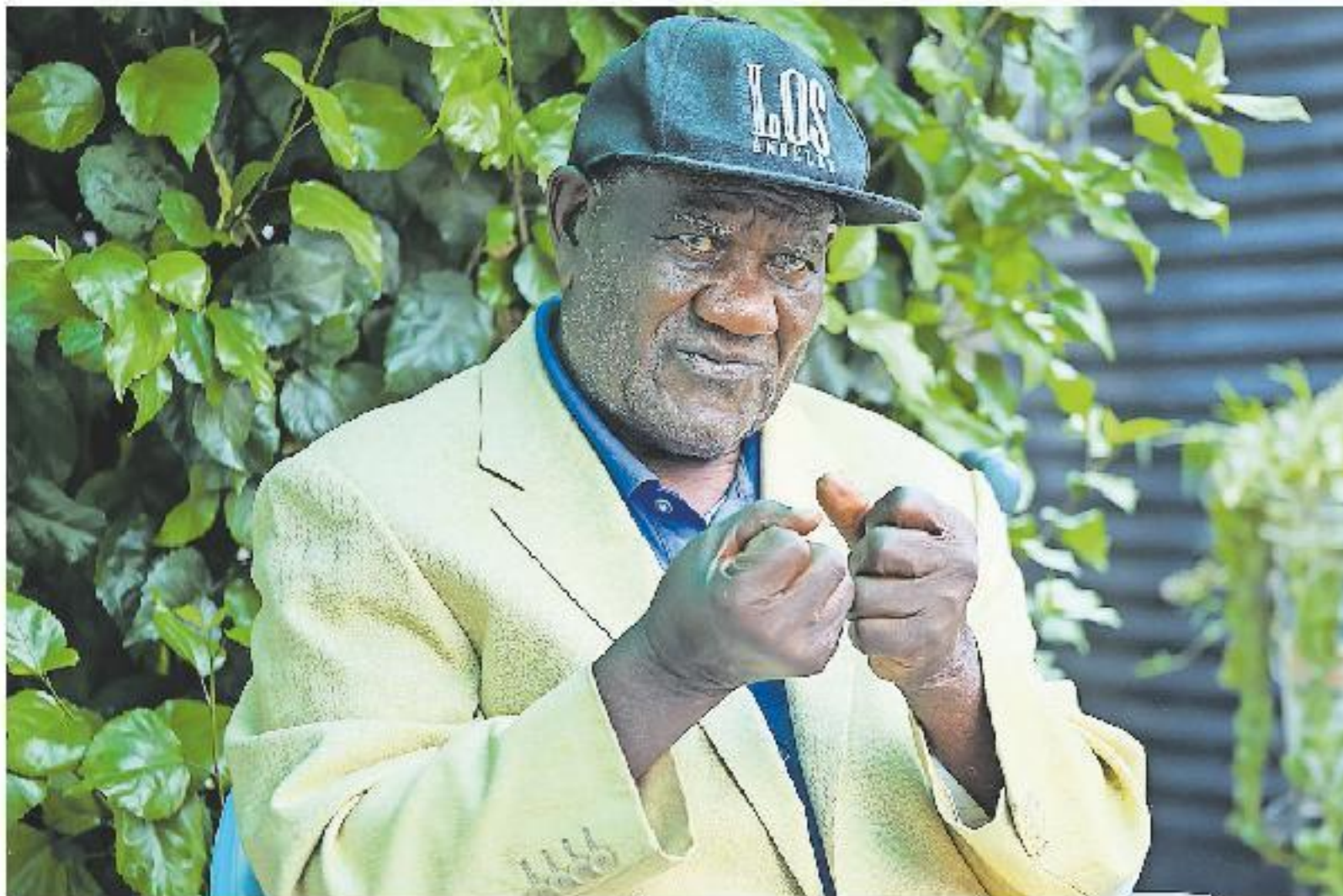
BY STEVE OTIENO

The old man paused, his hand clutching the arm of his chair on the veranda of his home in Kitengela, Kajiado County. He seemed to be anchoring himself against a storm that only he could feel.

Frank Njagi, 84, the father of activist Bob Njagi, has been a troubled man since his son and his colleague, Nicholas Oyoo, were abducted in Uganda on October 1. His eyes, red-rimmed from lack of sleep and a frantic search, reveal the extent of his distress, and every sound outside the gate only adds to his anxiety. He stares at the fence surrounding his compound, his shoulders sagging under the weight of uncertainty.

Over three weeks have passed since Njagi, his son, and Mr Oyoo vanished in Kampala. The two families say they have not received any official communication from the Ugandan or Kenyan government regarding the fate of the two. What started as a disappearance is quickly escalating into a diplomatic and human rights problem.

Records show that Njagi and Oyoo were scheduled to appear



Frank Njagi, father of missing human rights activist Bob Njagi, during an interview at his home in Kitengela, Kajiado County, on Wednesday. WILFRED NYANGARESII | NATION

before the High Court of Uganda on October 21 in response to a habeas corpus application. This type of writ is intended to compel authorities to either release the men or present them before a judge. However, the pair never appeared in court. Instead, Colonel Silas Kamanda of the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) filed a startling response saying the army was not holding them. In his written response, Col Kamanda stated that the missing men were not in military custody.

"We, therefore, confirm that Nicholas Oyoo and Bob Njagi are

not in the custody of the UPDF, and we do not know their whereabouts," he said, adding that the UPDF had examined records and detention facilities and found nothing indicating their arrest or booking in custody registers.

This statement only compounded the already dire situation for families grappling with anguish. It meant the only institution they had been told might be holding their sons was now denying any knowledge of them.

For Njagi's father, the fight is now about survival in the most literal sense. Every unanswered

question is a fresh wound. Each day without news about his son is a battle against despair. But he clings to hope as it is the only alternative a parent can bear.

As activists gather signatures, lawyers file motions, and diplomats weigh their options quietly or otherwise, the families of the pair maintain hope.

"No, I do not think Njagi and Oloo are dead. I am convinced they are being held somewhere. I appeal to those holding them to free them," said Njagi's father.

After Ugandan authorities failed to present the duo before

### WHO HAS THEM?

#### Court dismisses petition on two missing Kenyans

The High Court in Uganda has dismissed an application seeking the production of two missing Kenyans after authorities insisted that they were not holding them. The court dismissed the habeas corpus application, that sought to force Uganda authorities to produce Nicholas Oyoo and Bob Njagi, and advised the applicants to file a missing person's report with the Uganda police force. The court was informed that the two were arrested by military operatives on October 1, while attending a campaign rally of presidential candidate Robert Kyagulanyi, popularly known as Bobi Wine, in Kaliro District, Eastern Uganda. Mr Kyagulanyi condemned the abductions as Kenya's Interior CS Kipchumba Murkomen assured that the Foreign Affairs officials were working to have Oyoo and Njagi released.

- By Sam Kiplagat

court, Amnesty International Kenya, Law Society of Kenya and Vocal Africa launched a petition demanding action from Uganda.

The petition reads: "Today, Amnesty International Kenya, Law Society of Kenya (LSK), and Vocal Africa are calling on all concerned people across the world to sign on to this virtual letter to Uganda President Yoweri Museveni, demanding immediate and unconditional release of Kenyan human rights defenders Bob Njagi and Nick Oyoo."

The online campaign has gained traction among activists in Kenya and beyond, many of whom say the case resembles past incidents when individuals were abducted in one East African country and unlawfully transferred to another.

Cross border renditions in East Africa are not new.

Last year, prominent Ugandan opposition figure Dr Kizza Besigye was abducted in Nairobi under unclear circumstances before resurfacing at a military base in Uganda. No explanation was ever provided on who took him, how he moved across the border and under what legal authority.

In July last year, at least 36 Ugandan opposition activists were also arrested in Kisumu and taken into custody in Uganda. Human rights monitors criticised these as violations of international law and regional treaties on extradition and due process.

For critics, the disappearance

of Njagi and Oyoo now fits into a troubling pattern, one where political critics and activists are forcibly moved across borders to evade legal scrutiny.

In Kenya, civil society groups have expressed concern about the government's quiet response to the abduction of its own citizens. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not issued any statement acknowledging the matter. It has not confirmed if any formal diplomatic inquiries have been made to Uganda.

Mr Njagi was known within activism networks for documenting cases of police abuse and enforced disappearances in Kenya's informal settlements. Mr Oyoo, a close friend, often accompanied him during travels.

In the absence of answers from officials, details that have emerged are alarming. Witness accounts shared with families suggest that Njagi and Oyoo were abducted by unidentified men in Kampala and their phones switched off. When lawyers sought information through Uganda's legal system, there was no breakthrough.

Activists and lawyers working with human rights organisations say the situation is especially worrying because if neither the police nor the military in Uganda acknowledge having the two in their custodies, then the men could be held by informal units or paramilitary actors who operate without oversight. They warn that, historically, such disappearances are meant to silence, and often end in tragedy.

"The affidavit submitted by the Uganda People's Defence Forces to a Ugandan court in response to a habeas corpus application concerning Bob Njagi and Nicholas Oyoo remains deeply unconvincing and fails to satisfy their families and our demand for their justice," the statement by Amnesty International Kenya, LSK and Vocal Africa read in part.

At Njagi's home, family members have kept their phones charged and bags packed, clinging to hope of movement in the case. Two weeks ago, supporters of Njagi and Oloo staged protests outside the Ugandan Embassy in Nairobi. Despite the growing public attention, security officials from both nations remain mum.

International law defines enforced disappearance as a crime when individuals are seized by state agents or with state complicity, followed by a refusal to acknowledge custody or reveal their fate. In the region, advocacy groups point to a rising number of such cases that have been linked to political control and national security narratives.

Uganda has, for years, faced criticism over security operations targeting critics of the government. Kenya, too, has been questioned over renditions carried out under counter terrorism operations. But for the first time in years, the fate of young Kenyans appears to lie entirely in the shadows of a neighbouring country's security apparatus.



### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Kenya Pipeline Company Retirement Benefits Scheme (DB) will be held in Nairobi at KENPIPE PLAZA (Canteen) on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025 from 11.00 am.

All active, deferred members and pensioners are requested to attend the AGM.

#### Agenda:

- To read the notice convening the AGM
- To consider and adopt Scheme Financial Statements for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 together with Chairman's and Auditor's report.
- To receive reports on the Scheme's Investment Changes.
  - Report from the Fund Managers
  - Report from the Financial Advisor
  - Report from the Custodian
- To receive questions from members
- To transact any other business of the AGM for which a notice of at least 48 hours has been given.

By order of the Board of Trustees

Kennedy Ochieng  
ADMINISTRATOR/TRUST SECRETARY



### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Kenya Pipeline Company Retirement Benefits Scheme 2006 (DC) will be held in Nairobi at KENPIPE PLAZA (Canteen) on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025 from 9.00 am.

All active members are requested to attend the AGM.

#### Agenda:

- To read the notice convening the AGM
- To consider and adopt Scheme Financial Statements for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 together with Chairman's and Auditor's report.
- To receive reports on the Scheme's Investment Changes.
  - Report from the Fund Managers
  - Report from the Financial Advisor
  - Report from the Custodian
- To receive questions from members
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By order of the Board of Trustees

Kennedy Ochieng  
ADMINISTRATOR/TRUST SECRETARY

# Crime Lead investigator said the case began after the body was found in a wardrobe at Marina How household items exposed killer in Mtwapa murder case

High Court convicts suspect of killing businesswoman after linking him to items he pawned for cash

BY BRIAN OCHARO

A mosquito net, toaster, Luminarc plates, bed covers, fruit mixer, blow dryer and iron box – ordinary household items – became the crucial evidence that nailed a murder suspect accused of killing a woman in Mtwapa and stuffing her body inside a wardrobe.

These items led the High Court to find Robert Waliaula Kinisu guilty of the brutal murder of Mtwapa businesswoman Jackeline Ngina Kitheka, turning what was once a lively home into a scene of horror. Ngina, a hard-working entrepreneur, was killed as she prepared to marry her British fiancé, Harry Harrington.

Though there was no eyewitness, the High Court in Mombasa relied on a chain of events, witness testimony, and exhibits recovered from a shylock where Waliaula had deposited the items as security for a soft loan.

“The items recovered belonged to Jackeline, and that is what linked Waliaula to the murder,” the court ruled, adding that the circumstantial evidence presented was strong and unbroken.

The first prosecution witness, Scholastica Maghoha, told the court that Waliaula had been her boyfriend since March 2020. She invited him to live with her in her Mtwapa house, where they cohabited until November that year before moving to Mombasa.

One day, she said, police called asking about him. She helped identify several items he had brought home – items she later learned belonged to Jackline.

“One of the things he brought home was an iron box,” she said, adding that it disappeared just days later. She also identified white mosquito nets, Luminarc plates, a brown bag, a mattress cover, and a black cable among the items that appeared in their home.

On May 2, 2021, she recalled, he left unusually early – around 3am – and returned two hours later with a TV, a fan, and some extension cables. “When police later called me to record a statement, he hurriedly removed the TV and fan, saying he had no receipts,” she testified.

Her testimony became a vital thread linking the accused to the murdered woman’s property.

Ngina’s cousin, Mary Nduku, told the court she was among the first to enter Jackeline’s house after her disappearance. The house was in disarray; missing were a TV, laptop, shoes, mosquito net, Luminarc plates, a gas cooker, and a



Robert Waliaula Kinisu, who was found guilty of murdering Jackeline Ngina Kitheka in Mtwapa. FILE | NATION

**AT A GLANCE**

**Facts of the case in murder of woman**

**Victim:** Jackeline Ngina Kitheka, Mtwapa businesswoman

**Accused:** Robert Waliaula Kinisu

**Verdict:** Found guilty of murder by the High Court in Mombasa

**Key evidence:** Mosquito net, toaster, Luminarc plates, iron box, fruit mixer

**Date of murder:** May 2021

**Motive:** Robbery

**Previous case:** Acquitted in 2019 for killing model Janet Adhiambo Asuna

travelling bag. She identified several of the items in court, saying she had last seen them during a visit before Ngina’s death. “The white mosquito net and the Luminarc plates were hers,” she said. Ngina’s friend, Catherine Wasike, recounted how on May 6, 2021, she was called by her sister in Switzerland, who had been informed that Ngina had not been seen for two days and that a foul smell was coming from her house. “When we arrived, the landlord and police were there. The door was locked from inside. The sitting room was missing the TV, iron box, blender, and toaster,” she said. When officers forced open the second bedroom, they found Ngina’s decomposing body stuffed inside a wardrobe, her head on the

floor and legs pointing upward.

The chain of evidence widened when a Mtwapa shylock, Hamisi Mohamed Kamau, took the stand. He testified that on May 4, 2021, around 8pm, a man came to his shop seeking a loan, claiming his child was sick.

“He had a blender, toaster, and juice mixer. I sent Sh1,550 to his phone,” Kamau said, under the guidance of prosecution counsel Ngiri Wangui. Five days later, the same man returned with an iron box and received another Sh2,050.

Two weeks later, police traced the items to his shop, saying they were linked to a murder. He confirmed in court that the person who brought them was Waliaula.

M-Pesa records showed the sender’s name as “Brown Kipande,” a number that matched Jackeline’s last phone contact.

Ruth Wairuri, a receptionist at Mayer Lodge, told the court that on May 23, 2021, a man identifying himself as Waliaula booked a room and left a brown travelling bag. Police arrived later that day, retrieved the bag, and said it belonged to a murdered woman. She identified both the bag and the accused in court.

Government Chemist Officer David Ngumbao said tests on Ngina’s organs found no toxic substances, while pathologist Dr Irene Muramba testified that the cause of death could not be anatomically determined due to decomposition.

Lead investigator Dennis Isemeke said the case began after the body was found in a wardrobe at Marina, Mtwapa. Analysis of phone data showed Jackeline’s last contact was with a number linked to the suspect – the same one that

had communicated with Kamau, the shylock.

“From the shop, we recovered a blender, toaster, iron box, fruit mixer, blow dryer, and laptop,” he said. Detectives later tracked Waliaula to Garden Park Hotel, opposite the Mtwapa DCI offices, where he was arrested.

A search of his house, shared with Maghoha, recovered several items belonging to Jackeline, including a mosquito net, bag, clothes, and utensils.

In his defence, Waliaula denied the charges, saying he was an electrician and plumber wrongly accused. He said police arrested him while he was drinking Guinness and assaulted him. He denied knowing the shylock or using the name Brown Kipande.

But the court found the circumstantial evidence overwhelming.

“The accused was in possession of items belonging to Jackeline, some of which he pawned for

money. He gave no plausible explanation as to how he came into possession of them,” the court said.

The court noted his conduct – sneaking out at night, disposing of property, and evading questions – showed intent to conceal the crime.

“These were not acts of accident or provocation. They were calculated and cruel,” the court noted.

The court found him guilty of murder, closing a case in which simple household items – a mosquito net, toaster, plates, and an iron box – told the story of a life violently taken and a killer unmasked.

Mr Harrington welcomed the verdict but said the loss shattered him. “I am personally sad, as this tragic incident should never have occurred. Ngina had so much to live for. We had plans and hoped our lives were moving forward on a positive note. That future has been robbed from both of us. I am devastated by the loss and completely changed,” he told the Nation after the October 22 verdict.

In 2016, Waliaula made headlines for violently robbing and killing Mombasa-based model Janet Adhiambo Asuna at her Kizingo residence.

He was tried, found guilty, and sentenced to death by a magistrate’s court but was acquitted by the High Court in 2019 on appeal after serving one year in prison.

bocharo@ke.nationmedia.com



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# National News

**Delicate balance** Insiders say that Mr Moi is interested in the Roads and Transport Cabinet portfolio, currently

# Reshuffle set to hand Gideon Moi Cabinet slot

Pact will finally see Kanu's return to the heart of power after years in the political wilderness

BY DAVID MWERE AND JUSTUS OCHIENG

President William Ruto is expected to reorganise his cabinet any time to accommodate Kanu chairman Gideon Moi, the latest addition to the broad-based government.

According to sources close to the President, the changes have become even more urgent following the death of ODM leader Raila Odinga, the man Dr Ruto turned to last year when Gen Z protests threatened his hold on power.

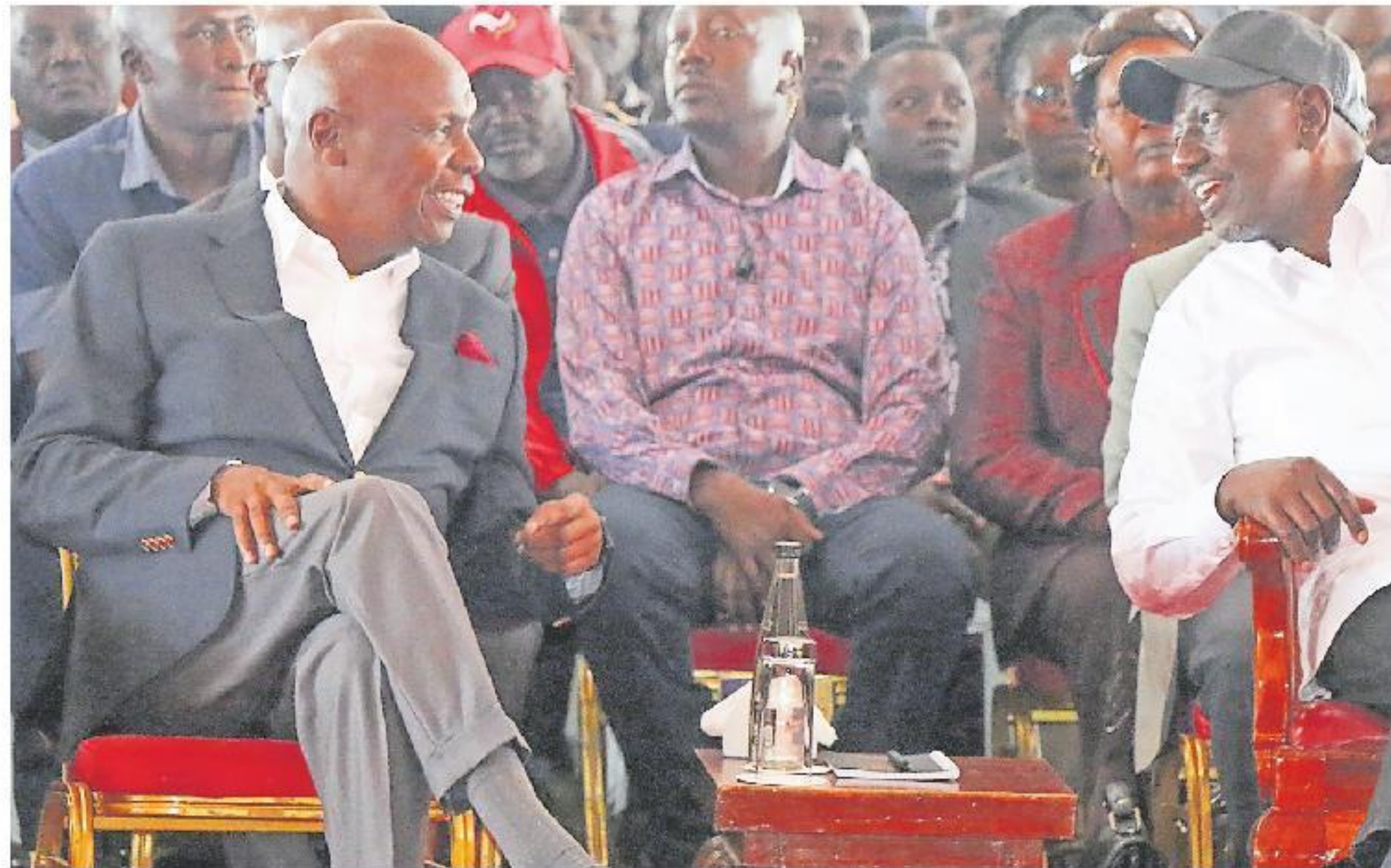
Odinga's death has left a glaring political vacuum and disrupted the delicate balance that defined Kenya's new broad-based government. Now that Odinga is gone, President Ruto faces the task of recalibrating his unity project to ensure stability ahead of 2027.

Kanu Secretary-General George Wain-

aina confirmed the ongoing cooperation between the two leaders, describing it as a unity-based partnership rather than one based on patronage. He said that party experts are working on the finer details of the new cooperation, which will see a number of Moi's allies secure plum positions.

"Our technical teams are still working out the details, but the agreement was never about being compensated — it's about national unity," said Mr Wainaina.

The pact that Dr Ruto and Mr Moi are expected to sign will see Kanu's return to the heart of power after years in the political wilderness. Cabinet positions and other roles are in return for Mr Moi abandoning his senatorial ambitions in the November 27 by-election in Baringo. The president and the Kanu leader, who were arch rivals, had a surprise meeting at State House on October 9 and the Head



## POLITICAL SPEAK Scratch my back...

Cabinet positions and other roles are in return for Mr Moi abandoning his senatorial ambitions in the November 27 by-election in Baringo.

The deal also includes the appointment of some of Mr Moi's loyalists as Principal Secretaries, ambassadors and heads of state parastatals.

of State visited the Kibaki home of the late President Moi, Gideon's father, the following day to firm up the rapprochement that saw the Kanu chairman step down from the race for the Baringo Senate seat in favour of the ruling party's candidate.

The *Nation* established that the pact was sealed after a series of meetings between President Ruto and Mr Moi — two of which were held in Kenya and one in Dubai last month.

"The coming together of President Ruto and Gideon Moi was organised by Raila Odinga. It is unfortunate he did not live to see it actualised," said a source familiar with the talks.

Other insiders revealed that Mr Moi is interested in the Roads and Transport Cabinet portfolio, which is currently

held by Mr Davis Chirchir. This could result in Mr Chirchir, who is a close ally of the president, being reassigned.

Commenting on the matter, Head of the Presidential Communication Service, Munyori Buku, said: "Appointment to the Cabinet is the discretion of the President, the appointing authority."

Further information from sources close to the discussions revealed that the deal also includes the appointment of some of Mr Moi's loyalists as principal secretaries, ambassadors and heads of state parastatals. Mr Moi has reportedly provided names to the president for background checks.

Ms Gladwell Tungo, the former Baringo Woman Representative and one of Mr Moi's fiercest supporters during the 2022 elections, is said to be in line for a



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Established in 2005, Fairtrade Africa (FTA) is the independent non-profit umbrella organization representing all Fairtrade certified producers in Africa. FTA is owned by its members, who are African producer organizations certified against International Fairtrade standards producing traditional export commodities such as flowers, coffee, cocoa, tea, cotton, bananas, mango and non-traditional commodities including shea butter and rooibos tea. Currently, the organization represents over 1.4 million smallholder farmers and workers across 33 countries in Africa.

Fairtrade Africa is updating its supplier database and is therefore inviting interested and eligible suppliers within Kenya to submit their applications for the prequalification of suppliers for various goods, services and consultancy services for the period of prequalification 2026-2028.

To manage this process, the organization has appointed Bold Insight Tech Solutions Ltd, the providers of SRM eProcurement platform, as the consultants for this prequalification exercise. The pre-qualification process will therefore be conducted electronically on SRM eProcurement portal [www.srmhub.com](http://www.srmhub.com). The categories for the supply of various goods and services are listed on <https://shorturl.at/YmQJQ>

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Access to submit the application shall be automatically granted upon payment of a non-refundable tender fee of KES 1,300.00 per tender category as defined in the application portal. This fee should be paid using Mpesa Paybill No. 4699518, Account No. "Auto generated at the payment stage in the system".

FTA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid in whole, or in part, without giving reasons.

Closing date and time: November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 1700 hours, East Africa Time (EAT).

For enquiries, please reach out to SRM at [admin@srmhub.com](mailto:admin@srmhub.com), +254701166974, +254733312000

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## NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

### CLARIFICATION ON PUBLICATION OF AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025

It has come to our attention that a draft of the financial results has been circulated through various online platforms. Stakeholders are therefore advised to exercise caution and to rely only on information published through the Company's official communication channels.

In accordance with statutory requirements, the audited financial statements can only be published upon completion of the review and approval. This process is currently ongoing, and the Company is engaging closely with stakeholders to expedite and publish by the statutory deadline.

KenGen remains committed to upholding the highest standards of transparency, corporate governance, and regulatory compliance. The Company will publish the audited financial results immediately after completion of the process.

We appreciate the continued support and understanding of our shareholders and stakeholders.

By Order of the Board

FCS AUSTIN OUKO  
COMPANY SECRETARY & GENERAL MANAGER - LEGAL AFFAIRS

23rd October 2025



AFYA CO-OPERATIVE SAVINGS AND CREDIT SOCIETY LIMITED  
P.O. BOX 11607- 00400, NAIROBI

## INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Afya Sacco Society Limited invites sealed tenders from eligible and competent firms for the following:

Tender No.	Tender Description	Tender Category	Closing Date & Time
AFYA/ RFQ/006/2025	Supply, Installation, Configuration and Commissioning of an E-Board Management Solution	Open Tender - ICT Services	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 12:00 noon EAT
AFYA/ RFQ/007/2025	Request for Proposal for the Implementation of Software Project Management and Quality Assurance Services	Open Tender - ICT Services	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 12:00 noon EAT

The detailed tender document may be obtained from the Procurement Office, Afya Sacco Head Office, located at Afya Centre, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Tom Mboya Street, Nairobi, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Kshs. 1,000.00 (One Thousand Shillings only) in cash or banker's cheque payable to Afya Sacco Society Limited, during normal working hours (Monday to Friday, 8.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.).

Completed tender documents are to be enclosed in plain sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Tender No. AND Tender Name" and addressed to:

The Chief Executive Officer  
Afya Sacco Society Limited  
P.O. Box 11607 - 00400, Nairobi

and deposited in the Tender Box located at the Afya Centre 7th floor Office so as to be received on or before Friday, 14th November 2025 at 12:00 noon EAT.

Tenders will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidders or their representatives who choose to attend at the Afya Sacco Boardroom.

Late tenders will be rejected and returned unopened.

Afya Sacco Society Limited reserves the right to accept or reject any tender, either in whole or in part, and is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

held by Mr Davis Chirchir. This could result in Mr Chirchir, a close ally of the president, being reassigned



President William Ruto and Kanu Party Leader, Gideon Moi, during a meeting with Baringo residents at Kabarak, in Nakuru County on October 10, 2025. PHOTO FILE

senior government role. She was present at the State House meeting between Mr Moi and President Ruto prior to Mr Moi's withdrawal from the Senate race.

Mr Ibrahim Sheikh, Kanu's First Vice Chairman, is also tipped for appointment. A seasoned politician from North Eastern, Mr Sheikh is respected among the Ajuran community and reportedly, he alone accompanied Mr Moi to the crucial meeting in Abu Dhabi.

Other names being mentioned as possible beneficiaries include Mr Abdirahman Bafadhil, a founding member of the YK'92, and former Minister Samuel Poghishio who served as Senate Minority Leader in the last Parliament.

Others expected to be considered include Eddie Kivuvani, Kanu's National Treasurer, and Ali Khan, the party's Director of Elections and Mr Moi's long-standing aide. Although they are not openly expressing much interest in the upcoming appointments, Mr Wainaina said: "Those appointments may come, and our members can benefit in one way or another."

However, Mr Wainaina sought to downplay the deal, saying that Kanu's priority was to contribute to national development rather than chase government positions. "There are more important things we would like addressed as a nation," he added, arguing the appointments were not the only reason they joined the broad-based government.

Mr Moi's entry into the cabinet could also come with an even more powerful role: Deputy Prime Cabinet Secretary (DPCS), which would make him the

**"Our technical teams are still working out the details, but the agreement was never about being compensated — it's about national unity,"**

KANU Secretary General George Wainaina



fourth most senior government official after President Ruto, Deputy President Kithure Kindiki and Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi.

Mr Wainaina also announced that Kanu will host the Democratic Union of Africa Conference next week, providing a platform to demonstrate the party's commitment to democratic principles and regional cooperation.

Mr Ibrahim did not deny reports that some of the party's members could join the government.

"I have been out of the country, but I'm now back. I will be meeting the chairman, and as a party, we will give an accurate report. Otherwise, it is true I have also heard of such reports," Mr Sheikh told *Nation*.

Part of the deal, *Nation* gathered, is the settlement of nearly Sh3 billion pending bills owed to Gideon's companies in the energy sector, including for works done for the Geothermal Development Com-

pany (GDC).

"Mr Moi was frustrated that despite completing works for which he was contracted, GDC delayed payments. Whenever he invoiced for settlement, documents would misleadingly show he had already been paid — prompting KRA to demand taxes. It became a vicious cycle," his ally told *Nation*.

The discussions between Mr Moi and President Ruto include a long-term framework for political cooperation ahead of the 2027 General Election.

Analysts believe the Ruto-Moi handshake fits neatly into the President's broader strategy of constructing a "broad-based government" — a coalition designed to bring together leaders from across political divides to consolidate national stability and bolster his re-election prospects. He cannot afford bickering in his own backyard ahead of an election expected to be close. Both Moi and Ruto are from the former Rift Valley province.

The inclusive model was first launched on March 8, 2025, when President Ruto and Odinga signed a joint cooperation framework at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC). Odinga's cooperation with President Ruto opened the door for opposition figures to join Cabinet including; former ODM Deputy Party Leaders Wycliffe Oparanya (Co-operatives and MSMEs), Ali Hassan Joho (Mining and Blue Economy), ex-ODM National Chairperson John Mbadi (National Treasury), former Director of Political Affairs Opiyo Wandayi (Energy), and former elections board member Beatrice

Askul (EAC and ASALs).

Mr Odinga's death, however, has left a vacuum in the opposition, and his unifying role in mediating the Moi-Ruto talks may have accelerated the new political realignment. President Ruto has consistently maintained that his inclusivity drive is not about political rewards but about strengthening national unity and fast-tracking development.

"This is not about individuals, personalities, or regions — it is about Kenya," he said during his visit to Kabarak in early September, where he met the Moi family. "We are late in our development journey. I need more hands, and that is why I formed the broad-based government. Now I need Gideon to help me move the country forward."

The alliance not only signals the re-entry of the Moi family into national politics, but also redefines power relations within the Rift Valley, where Gideon has long been seen as Ruto's rival.

For Gideon, it marks an extraordinary comeback after years of political dormancy. It repositions him at the centre of national decision-making while restoring the Moi family's historic influence in state affairs. Kanu, once dismissed as a relic of Kenya's single-party past, now finds itself re-emerging as a strategic ally in shaping the country's future political direction.

Yet, President Ruto's planned reorganisation is not without risks. Expanding the Cabinet and redistributing key portfolios could trigger resentment among current office holders and strain internal dynamics within the ruling coalition.



**NOTICE TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025**  
Notice of Graduation Ceremony and Timetable of Events



The 48th Graduation Ceremony of Daystar University will be held on **Friday, November 14, 2025** Physical in the Main Campus starting at 7:15 a.m. (Guests should be seated by 7:00 a.m.) You are kindly reminded to note the following events and dates.

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Academic Clearance – virtual application	Monday, June 16, 2025, to Wednesday, October 22, 2025	9:00am - 5:00pm	Office of the University Registrar
Special Infospot	Thursday, October 23, 2025	9:00am - 5:00pm	
Financial Clearance	Ongoing to Thursday, October 23, 2025		Finance Office
Graduation Notice	Friday, October 24, 2025		
Final List to Finance	Tuesday, October 28, 2025	1:00pm	Finance Offices (Nairobi & Athi River Campuses) & Notice Boards
Special ADB to approve Graduation List	Tuesday, October 28, 2025	2:00pm - 3:00am	Nairobi Campus AD3
Special Senate to approve Graduation List	Wednesday, October 29, 2025	7:00am - 9:00am	Main Campus
ARSA Council/Sealing Committee Approval of the Graduation List	Thursday, October 30, 2025	2:00pm - 3:00pm	Council Room, Nairobi Campus
Final Graduation List to Corporate Affairs and the Printers	Friday, October 31, 2025	4:00pm	Corporate Affairs Office, Nairobi Campus
<b>Picking Graduation Gowns &amp; Dinner cards (Graduands should adhere to the indicated dates for picking gowns to avoid last minute inconveniences)</b>			
Graduate School (Masters & PhD), School of Law & School of Nursing students	Thursday, October 30, 2025	9.00am - 4.00pm	Main Campus
School of Business & Economics, School of Psychology, & School of Science, Engineering and Health	Friday, October 31, 2025	9.00am - 4.00pm	Main Campus
School of Communication, Directorate of Policy and Development Studies, & School of Education	Monday, November 3, 2025	9.00am - 4.00pm	Main Campus
School of Arts & Social Sciences, School of Mission and Theology & School of Applied Human Sciences	Tuesday, November 4, 2025	9.00am - 4.00pm	Main Campus
Diploma Students	Wednesday, November 5, 2025	9.00am - 4.00pm	Main Campus
Faculty picking graduation gowns & invitation cards	Mon - Wed November 10-12, 2025	9.00am - 4.00pm	Main Campus
Graduation Dinner	Saturday, November 8, 2025	6.00pm	TBA
Candle Lighting Ceremony	Tuesday, November 11, 2025	8.30am - 10.00am	Main Campus (physical)
Graduation Chapel	Thursday, November 13, 2025	8.30am - 10.00am	Main Campus (physical)
Graduation Rehearsal	Thursday, November 13, 2025	11.05am - 1.00pm	Main Campus (physical)
Graduation Day	Friday, November 14, 2025	7:15am	Main Campus (physical)

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# National News

## Row The High Court has suspended two sections of the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes (Amendment) Bill, 2024

BY MWANGI NDIRANGU AND KEVIN CHERUIYOT

# There was no ill intent in signing of Bills, says Ruto

President William Ruto has defended his decision to assent to eight Bills on October 15, the same day the country received news of the death of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga.

Speaking at Thome Village in Laikipia County during the burial of Mzee Weston Kirocho, father of Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja, the President said he had already reported to work when the news broke.

“There are those condemning me for signing the Bills, arguing that the country was in mourning. But that was the work scheduled for the day, and I received the news after arriving at the office,” said Dr Ruto.

He added that all the Bills had followed due legislative process and were presented by the Speaker of the National Assembly and parliamentary leadership.

Among the Bills signed was the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which has sparked public debate and legal challenges. The High Court has since suspended implementation of two sections of the law, pending determination of a suit filed by gospel singer Reuben Kigame and the Kenya Human Rights Commission.

The petition challenges the

### President claims that he had already reported to work when news of Raila’s death broke

amendment to Section 27, which criminalises the publication of “false, misleading or fictional data.” Mr Kigame argues the provision is vague and unconstitutional. The matter is scheduled for mention on November 5.

Former Chief Justice David Maraga is among those who have criticised the law, warning that it grants the government excessive powers to access or shut down online platforms, posing a threat to free expression.

Defending the legislation, National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung’wah said the amendments were necessary to curb the spread of misinformation and digital abuse.

“The culture of misinformation is so widespread it has not spared the church or Judiciary. The amendments are aimed at protecting citizens, especially children, from online dangers including terrorism,” said Mr



President William Ruto is received by Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja during the burial of Mr Kanja's father, Mzee Weston Kirocho, at Thome Boys High School grounds in Laikipia County yesterday. JOSEPH KANYI | NATION

Ichung’wah. He noted that the original law was enacted in 2018 under President Uhuru Kenyatta, and the current Parliament had only introduced amendments. He also claimed that the Judiciary was being misled by bloggers, similar to a previous legal challenge in 2018 that was eventually over-

help us disseminate the truth,” he said. Government Spokesperson Isaac Mwaura also weighed in, stating that the laws bolster Kenya’s ability to combat emerging threats such as child pornography, online extremism, cyber-harassment, identity theft and financial fraud.

He clarified that the National Computer Cybercrimes Coordination Committee’s power to render websites or applications inaccessible is subject to judicial review.

“This mirrors international best practices where governments act to protect citizens, especially children, from harmful content. Freedoms under Articles 33 and 34 remain intact, subject to lawful limitations for national security and public safety,” Mr Mwaura said.

The other Bills assented to by the President include: The National Land Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2023; The Land (Amendment) Bill, 2024; The Wildlife Conservation and Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023; The National Police Service Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2024; The Air Passenger Service Charge (Amendment) Bill, 2025; The Virtual Asset Service Providers Bill, 2025; and The Privatisation Bill, 2025.

mwndirangu@ke.nationmedia.com

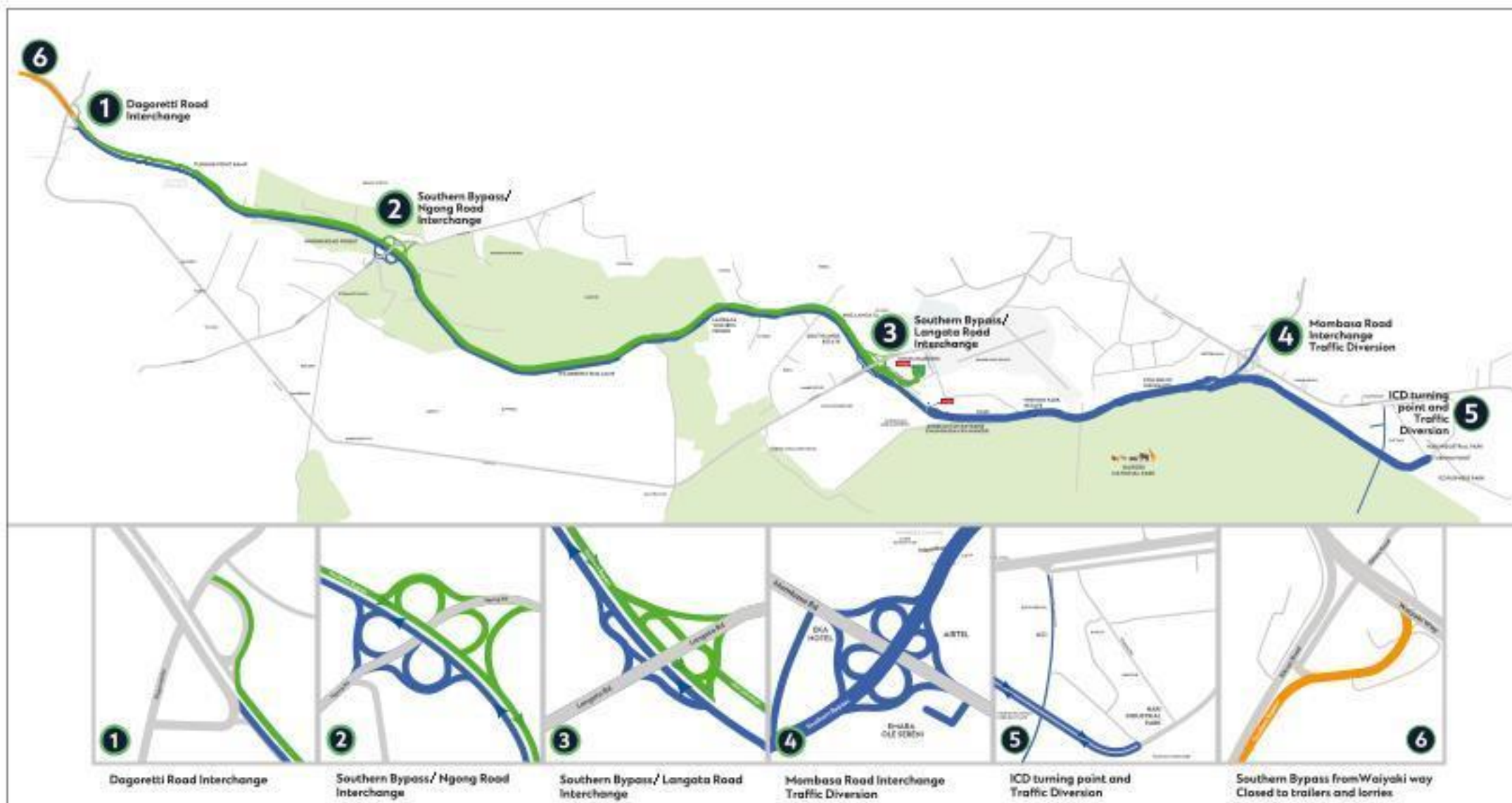
### There are those condemning me for signing the Bills, arguing that the country was in mourning. But that was the work scheduled for the day.

President William Ruto



turned. Mr Ichung’wah urged religious leaders to support the government in countering falsehoods, citing misinformation around the National Land Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

“There are claims that the government plans to tax land with freehold titles, which are unfounded. I appeal to the clergy to



### Times of Road Closures, Saturday 26th October

Color Code	Road Closure	Road Opening
Grey	Remains Open	Remains Open
Green	Midnight	Not before 1:30 pm
Blue	Midnight	Not before 12:10 pm
Orange	Midnight	Not before 1:30 pm

### Road Closures and Traffic Diversions

Accessible Areas		
From	To	Diversion
Kikuyu	Dagoretti via Southern Bypass	Vehicles will be able to access Dagoretti from Kikuyu through the Southern Bypass
Karen (Karinda)	Kikuyu via Southern Bypass	Vehicles will be able to use the Southern Bypass to access Kikuyu from Karen through Dagoretti Road

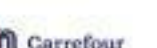
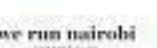
### 12:00 am - 12:10 pm Sunday 26th October 2025

From	To	Diversion
Karen Shopping Centre	Kikuyu via Southern Bypass	Vehicles to use Dagoretti Road
Karen Shopping Centre	Mombasa Road via Southern Bypass	Vehicles to use Langata Road
Langata Road (Galleria Mall)	Kikuyu via Southern Bypass	Vehicles to use Dagoretti Road via Langata Road
Langata Road (Galleria Mall)	Mombasa Road via Southern Bypass	Vehicles to use Uhuru Highway through Langata Road
ICD	Kikuyu via Southern Bypass	Vehicles to use Waiyaki Way through Mombasa Road; Uhuru Highway
Mombasa Road	Ole Sereni	Vehicles to access Emara Ole Sereni through Nextgen Mall
Likani Road	Mombasa Road (through Southern Bypass)	Vehicles to use Enterprise Road

### 12:00 am - 1:30 pm Sunday 26th October 2025

From	To	Diversion
Kikuyu	Mombasa Road via Southern Bypass	Vehicles to use Waiyaki Way
Dagoretti	Mombasa Road via Southern Bypass	Vehicles to use Waiyaki Way or through Ngong Road and Mbagathi Way
Lenana (Ngong Road)	Kikuyu via Southern Bypass	Vehicles to use Waiyaki Way through Naivasha Road or James Gichuru Road
Lenana (Ngong Road)	Mombasa Road via Southern Bypass	Vehicles to use Langata Road through Karen Road
Waiyaki way	Mombasa Road via Southern Bypass	Trailers and Lorries to use Waiyaki Way

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# National News

**Controversy** In August, the Council of Governors opposed plan, saying it undermines devolution

## Teachers sue over 'unfair' policy

Petitioners say the rule undermines professional autonomy and violates the law

BY WINNIE ATIENO

A group of teachers representing more than 70,000 junior school tutors has moved to court to challenge the government's decision to place them under primary school heads, escalating tensions over the rollout of the Comprehensive Schools policy, now under review.

In a petition filed at the High Court in Nairobi, the teachers – who have sued Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba, the Teachers Service Commission (TSC), and Attorney-General Dorcas Oduor – argue that the move threatens their professional autonomy and career progression.

They want the court to suspend the policy's implementation until proper public participation and constitutional compliance are ensured.

The legal action comes weeks after President William Ruto di-



Junior Secondary School teachers protest against the Teachers Service Commission on Moi Avenue, Mombasa, last year. KEVIN ODIT | NATION

rected CS Ogamba to fast-track the operationalisation of Sessional Paper Number 1 of 2025, which formalises the transition to Comprehensive Schools. Under this model, primary heads will oversee Early Years, Junior School, and support staff – a move junior school teachers fiercely oppose.

The 39 petitioners say the new structure undermines their professional status, noting that most Junior school teachers are employed on permanent and

pensionable terms and trained to teach secondary-level content. They argue the policy violates their constitutional rights and contradicts the framework of the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) by placing Grades 7-9 under the management of primary heads, who often lack secondary education qualifications.

The controversy dates back to 2023, when the government placed Junior school within primary schools as a transitional measure. The Presidential Work-

39

The number of petitioners who say the new structure undermines their professional status, most of whom are employed on permanent and pensionable terms

ing Party on Education Reforms (PWPER) later recommended merging Early Childhood Education, primary, and junior secondary under one management, though the Basic Education Act has not been amended to reflect this.

In August 2025, the Council of Governors opposed the plan, saying it undermines devolution by centralising key education functions, particularly ECD, which is a county mandate.

CoG Chair Ahmed Abdullahi warned that unilateral policy changes without consultation "violate the Constitution and threaten gains made in the education sector."

The petitioners say merging the levels compromises education quality and violates teachers' and students' rights. "Junior

Secondary Schools cater to adolescents aged 12-15, whose psychosocial and educational needs differ from those of younger children," they argue. They further claim the policy threatens career progression and recognition by placing them under less-qualified primary heads, violating rights to fair treatment and career advancement.

Last month, TSC proposed a new administrative structure to ease tensions between primary heads and Junior school teachers. Director of Staffing Antonina Lentoijoni said the commission is reviewing staffing norms to align with PWPER recommendations.

On September 13, 2025, President Ruto directed CS Ogamba and Education Committee Chair Julius Melly to fast-track bills supporting Competency-Based Education reforms within 45 days. If passed, the sessional paper will revert the 70,000 Junior school teachers under Kuppet to the Kenya National Union of Teachers (Knut), formalising the creation of Comprehensive Schools.

watieno@ke.nationmedia.com

**Court order**

## Litein Boys' candidates back to school

BY VITALIS KIMUTAI

Form Four learners at Litein Boys' High School have resumed studies following an interim court order on how much they should pay for damages from the strike that caused losses estimated at Sh100 million.

The 429 candidates, set to sit the KCSE exams, are back for revision, while the rest of the 1,000 students will return when schools reopen on January 5, 2026. Principal Richard Sang said the candidates had made partial payments as directed by the court.

Security has been tightened at the institution, with parents undergoing screening before entry, and temporary arrangements made for classrooms and dormitories.

The High Court in Kericho suspended the school board's decision to charge each learner Sh49,699, reducing the total damages from Sh99.9 million to Sh69.5 million. The court ordered students to pay Sh25,000 in three instalments. The case will come up for mention next Wednesday.

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Chairman Programs and  
Partnerships Committee  
at Association of  
Pension Trustees and  
Administrators of Kenya  
(APTAK)



**SPEAKER**  
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Fund Accountant, Equity  
Life Assurance (Kenya)  
Limited



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Pauline Gathuri,  
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Producer and News  
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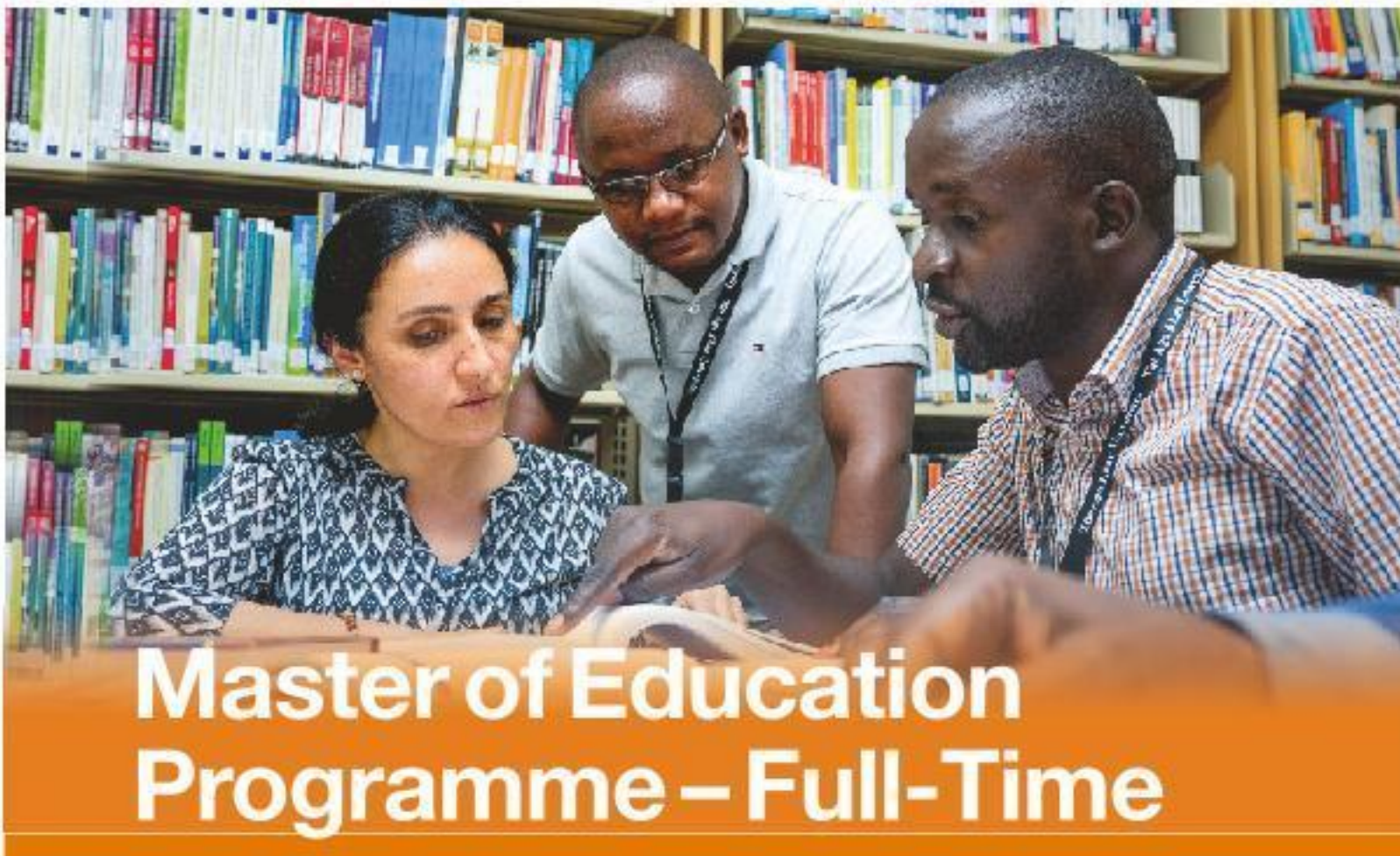
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**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE MEMBER  
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## PUBLIC NOTICE

In Exercise of Power conferred by Section 15(3) and Section 56(1) of the National Rating Act 2024, notice is hereby given to all ratable owners and the general public that land rates levied by the Nairobi City County Government for the year 2026, shall become due on the **1<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2026** and shall be levied as follows:

### LAND RATES

#### Flat Rate Zones

Land Area	Per Year	Rate
Land not exceeding 0.1 HA	Per Year	Ksh.2,560
Land greater than 0.1 & Not Exceeding 0.2 HA	"	Ksh.3,200
Land greater than 0.2 HA & Not Exceeding 0.4 HA	"	Ksh.4,000
Exceeding 0.4 HA	"	Ksh.4,800

#### Private and Public Valuation Properties/Plots

##### New Rates Struck – 2019 Draft Valuation Roll

Property Type	Per Year	USV	Rate
Residential Plots	Per Year	USV	0.115%
Commercial Plots	"	"	0.115%
Agricultural Plots	"	"	0.115%

### THE ABOVE CHARGES ON NEW VALUE AS PER THE 2019 DRAFT VALUATION ROLL SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING:

Rate Scenario	Per Year	Payment Rule
New Rates lower than the 2022 Rates	Per Year	Pay 2022 Rates
New Rates more than Double the 2022 Rates	"	Pay Double the 2022 Rates

**NB:** All Ratable Owners who had objected to the new rates as per the 2019 Draft Valuation Roll shall continue paying the old rates pending the hearing and determination of their respective objections by the Valuation Board.

Land owners whose land has not been valued or are missing from the Draft Valuation Roll are advised to contact the Chief Valuer at City Hall for further guidance. Be notified too that sectional title holders must now open individual rates account.

For more information, kindly call Customer Care Centre on: **0725 624 489, 020 222 42 81, 0207 247 047, 0730 047 047** or email [info@nairobi.go.ke](mailto:info@nairobi.go.ke). You may also download your Rates Invoice by login to: [nairobiservices.go.ke](http://nairobiservices.go.ke)

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## National News

**Nostalgia** Raphael Wamwati has flown several VIPs – local and foreign – for years, with some becoming friends

# Pilot recounts flying moments with former PM

Twinstar Aviation managing partner says Raila was keen for details when in the air

BY KAMORE MAINA

He would stroll into the aircraft, donning that trademark smile and eyes fixed on the seats closest to the cockpit.

After identifying where to sit for the flight, Raila Odinga would settle down and exchange pleasantries with the pilot, Raphael Wamwati, and other crew.

By the time Mr Wamwati achieved a cruising altitude of 35,000ft, Odinga would most likely be holding a tumbler, marveling at the skies while asking his pilot all sorts of aviation-related questions.

The contents of the tumbler would depend on his mood. At times it was the single malt scotch whiskey, Glenfiddich. Other times it was the blended scotch whiskey, Johnnie Walker.

But whichever way Odinga's decision swung, the liquid gold sipped in the sky had most likely spent more than 18 years maturing in an oak cask.

Odinga would sip from the tumbler and Mr Wamwati's well of knowledge.

He loved the skies, but was fascinated by the working of planes and would never shy away from asking anything aviation for the duration of the flight.

That was Odinga the passenger in the eyes of Mr Wamwati, who spent several hundred hours in

the skies with the former premier.

Some trips were political excursions, others business-related while some were private – like family tours.

For 13 years, Odinga was a repeat client of Twinstar Aviation. Mr Wamwati was on many of those flights the captain.

"He loved flying and being in planes. Raila was always keen for details. He would watch closely as we navigated airspaces to different destinations. You could tell he had an interest in aviation from the many questions he asked," Mr Wamwati, the managing partner of Twinstar and executive chairman Richard Kubo said told the *Daily Nation* at Wilson Airport, Nairobi.

Having enjoyed the company of Odinga and his family in the clouds for more than a decade and a half, Mr Wamwati maintains that the veteran politician is one of the most impactful clients he has met in his 21-year career.

Mr Wamwati and Mr Kubo have flown several VIPs – local and foreign – with some becoming friends.

On August 26, 2024 a convoy of SUVs took Odinga and former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport to Wilson.

The two statesmen were to catch a flight to Kisumu, where

they were among the VIPs of Festac Festival – an event that celebrates diversity in through music, dance and storytelling.

Their friendship, forged at the graveside of Kenya's first vice-president and Odinga's father – Jaramogi Odinga Odinga – stood the test of time.

Mr Obasanjo was in Kenya many times to stand with the Odinga family in trying moments.

In 1994, he was around to console with the Odingas when Jaramogi died. He was there for the anniversary of Jaramogi's death and the opening of the East African Spectre plant on Mombasa Road, Nairobi, a year later.

When Odinga and president Mwai Kibaki could not see eye-to-eye because of the 2007 election results, Mr Obasanjo was among African leaders who attempted to broker a truce.

At the peak of the Odinga-President William Ruto rivalry in 2023, Mr Obasanjo stepped in and got the pair talking.

Arguably, that truce conceived the broad-based union of President Ruto and Odinga's ODM party a year later.

On many of those occasions, Odinga and Mr Obasanjo flew around on a Twinstar Aviation aircraft piloted by Mr Wamwati.

Last Sunday, Mr Wamwati and Mr Obasanjo were there to help write the final chapter in the book that is Raila Amollo Odinga. They were in Bondo to bury a man who juggled politics, business and family even as successive governments threw



Twinstar Aviation Executive Chairman Richard Kubo and Managing Partner Raphael Sebastian Wamwati during the interview at their office at Wilson Airport. BONFACE BOGITA | NATION

He loved flying and being in planes. Raila was keen for details while flying. He would watch closely as we navigated the airspace to the different destinations

Raphael Wamwati, pilot with Twinstar Aviation



everything but the kitchen sink in attempts to solve the "problem" that was Odinga.

At Wilson Airport in August, 2024, Mr Wamwati and his crew waited patiently to fly the two friends to Kisumu on a chartered aircraft.

An officer from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had received Odinga and the former Nigerian head of state, and was there to execute protocol and handle the logistics.

The officer announced that there were two planes, one for each of the VIPs. Such individuals are not supposed to fly in the same aircraft.

However, Odinga was never one to follow protocol – protocol was to be bent to his whims.

Mr Wamwati said Odinga insisted on flying with Mr Obasanjo.

"The officer said Raila and Obasanjo could not fly in the same plane. He added that owing to their VIP status, protocol demanded that they fly separate in the event of an incident," Mr Kubo said at the Twinstar's Wilson Airport office.

"Odinga told the protocol officer firmly: 'These are my boys. I know them well and nothing will happen'."

The protocol officer gave in and allowed Odinga and Mr Obasanjo to board the same aircraft to Kisumu where they attended the festival.

"They were all smiles as we landed in Kisumu," Mr Wamwati said.

For Odinga, defying protocol was not unusual. For Mr Wamwati, however, that defiance made

August 26, 2024 one of the few days that remain etched in his memory.

When this writer visited the offices at Wilson Business Centre, Lang'ata aerodrome, Mr Wamwati and Mr Kubo had just landed from Kisumu.

They were among the chosen few who attended Odinga's burial at Kang'o ka Jaramogi, Siaya County.

Mr Wamwati and Mr Kubo had several photos they took with Odinga over the years.

Mr Wamwati said he and Mr Kubo were introduced to the family by Odinga's first born, Fidel, in 2007.

They became close, with the latter later becoming a loyal client of Twinstar Aviation.

"The relationship moved from the friendship with Fidel to a more robust association of business people," Mr Kubo said.

Odinga may have rested, but for Mr Wamwati, the former PM lives through the memories made in the skies and which forged a new friendship.

kamaina@ke.nationmedia.com

## Raila Jr assumes Odinga household leadership after rituals

BY DOMNIC OMBOK AND KASSIM ADINASI

Raila Odinga Jr has assumed leadership of the Odinga household following a ceremony at the family's residence in Bondo yesterday.

The event, which was led by his uncle Oburu Odinga, marked a cultural milestone for the family. It was the formal passing of authority and responsibility in the household following the death and burial of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga last week.

Senator Odinga, the elder brother of Odinga, said the ceremony was deeply rooted in Luo traditions that guide family transitions.

He emphasised that it was not a political event but blessings and a customary handover of domestic leadership.

"The seat of power in this home is now with Junior and his mother Ida Odinga. Junior's mother will be there to give him the advice he needs, but he must stand firm. He must now lead the home as dictated by culture," the Siaya senator said.

Dr Odinga added that while Junior would head the household, the larger Odinga family remains under his authority as the patriarch.

According to Luo customs, *chieng' mar ang'wen* (the fourth day) after burial, marks the formal end of mourning.

The Odinga family gathered to perform the rites that signalled the closure of mourning.

"In our culture, the fourth day is also when married daughters return to their homes and sons who have been here during mourning are allowed to go back to their families," he said.

Dr Odinga added that the Odingas followed the traditions and rites that were performed when their patriarch, Jaramogi Odinga Odinga, died and was buried in January 1994.

"We cannot disregard culture. Even in the Bible, Isaac blessed his sons Jacob and Esau. The same applies to us. Blessings and ceremonies to pass authority have always been part of our faith and culture," Dr Odinga said.

There was also the shaving ceremony known as *liedo*. According to elders, shaving one's head is of immense spiritual significance.

It symbolises cleansing, renewal and the transition from mourning to continuity – the restoration of life's balance after death has passed through a home.

Raila Junior, the younger son of the former pre-

mier and now the family's eldest surviving male, was the focus of the rite.

"Junior takes the leadership of the family and the instruments of power as a sign of his new role," Dr Odinga said.

Before being handed the symbols of authority – a spear and traditional attire – Raila Junior's head was shaved.

His aunt placed a mark on head to show that she was the one carrying out the rite. She then motioned to the barber to complete the shaving.

The hum of the shaving machine replaced the old rasp of razors, a modern echo of an ancient sound.

When the shaving was over, Raila Junior was dressed in traditional attire, his hands gripping the spear – which the elders present said signified strength and responsibility.



REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
**COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF TRANS NZOIA**  
**COUNTY ASSEMBLY HALL**  
**OFFICE OF THE CLERK**



**DECLARATION OF VACANCIES OF MEMBER(S) OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY SERVICE BOARD, COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF TRANS NZOIA.**

PURSUANT to Section 12(3) (d) of the County Governments Act, 2017 as read with Sections 8,9 and 46 of the County Assembly Services Act, 2017 and the First Schedule thereto, vacancies for one man and one woman, have arisen in the membership of the County Assembly Service Board, County Assembly of Trans Nzoia.

For appointment as a member of the Board, a person **MUST**:-

- Be a citizen of Kenya;
- Hold at least a degree from a university recognized in Kenya;
- Have at least ten(10) years' experience in public affairs; and
- Meet the requirements of Leadership and Integrity under Chapter Six of the Constitution.

**APPLICATION CRITERIA**

Interested persons who qualify to serve as Members of the Board are, therefore, invited to submit their applications, accompanied with the following documents;

- Application Letter;
- Certified copies of academic and professional certificates together with relevant testimonials;
- Certified copy of National Identity Card/Kenyan passport and
- Detailed Curriculum Vitae,

in sealed envelopes and clearly marked, "**Application for Member of the County Assembly Service Board**" which may be hand delivered or send by mail/courier to the Office of the Clerk to the County Assembly & Secretary to the County Assembly Service Board at the County Assembly Hall, P.O. BOX 4221-30200, KITALE, so as to reach him on or before Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 5 P.M.

Shortlisted applicants shall be required to bring along original copies of the above documents and of the following documents;

- Current Tax Compliance Certificate from the Kenya Revenue Authority(KRA);
- Valid Clearance Certificate from the Higher Education Loans Board(HELB);
- Current Clearance Certificate from the Credit Reference Bureau(CRB);
- Current Certificate of Records(Good Conduct) from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations;
- Current Clearance Certificate from the Ethics and Anticorruption Commission(EACC);

**NOTE:**

- Applicants holding foreign degree qualifications must submit a valid certificate of Recognition and Equivalence from the Commission on University Education(CUE)
- Only shortlisted candidates shall be conducted.
- Successful applicants shall undergo a vetting and approval process by the County Assembly to qualify for appointment.
- Application forms may be obtained from the Office of the Clerk to the County assembly & Secretary to the County Assembly Service Board at the County Assembly Hall or from the County Assembly website; [www.transnzoiaassembly.go.ke](http://www.transnzoiaassembly.go.ke)

**Clerk to the County assembly & Secretary to the County Assembly Service Board**



**JOB VACANCIES**

Mission for Essential Drugs and Supplies (MEDS) is a faith-based health solutions provider founded by an ecumenical partnership of the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB) and the Christian Health Association of Kenya (CHAK). The Organization's core mandate is being a reliable provider for quality and affordable Health Products and Technologies, Quality Assurance and Health Systems Strengthening Services. MEDS was established in 1986 and serves clients spread throughout Kenya, other regions in Africa and beyond.

**MEDS seeks to recruit following positions**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Accountant – Taxation and Costing                      | 10. Internal Audit Assistant (2 positions)    |
| 2. Assistant Accountant                                   | 11. Inventory Control Officer – Kisumu Branch |
| 3. Client Relations Officer (1 position – Kisumu Branch)  | 12. Laboratory Assistant                      |
| 4. Client Relations Officer (2 positions – Head Office)   | 13. Monitoring and Evaluation Officer         |
| 5. Client Relations Assistant (4 positions – Head Office) | 14. Quality Assurance Officer                 |
| 6. Field Officer  | 15. Quality Assurance Assistant–Kisumu branch |
| 7. Health Systems Strengthening Officer                   | 16. Resource Centre and Information Officer   |
| 8. ICT Officer – Database Administration                  | 17. Risk Officer                              |
| 9. Internal Audit Officer                                 | 18. Warehouse Officer                         |

Detailed job roles have been posted in the MEDS website [www.meds.or.ke](http://www.meds.or.ke)

If you fit the profiles of the positions, please submit your application providing the following **MANDATORY** requirement:

- Detailed CV stating your current position and salary, expected salary, telephone number and email address
- Copy of National Identity Card

To: [hr@meds.or.ke](mailto:hr@meds.or.ke)

By: 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025

**Note:** These positions are open to local hires only. Late applications will not be considered and only short-listed applicants will be contacted.



**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

**(CONSULTING SERVICES - INDIVIDUAL SELECTION)**

**Country:** Kenya

**Project:** Africa Green, Resilient and Inclusive De-Risking (GRIHD) Facility

**Project ID:** P178986

**Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.:** 77270

**Assignment Title:** Procurement Specialist

**Reference No.:** KE-TDB-517726-CS-INDV PROC SPECIALIST

- The Eastern and Southern Africa Trade and Development Bank (TDB) Group has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the **Africa Green Resilient and Inclusive Housing De-Risking (GRIHD) Facility** and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.
- The consulting services ("the Services") include the Procurement Specialist assignment. This Consultant shall work for an initial period of twenty-four (24) calendar months from contract commencement date. This initial period is subject to extension(s), based on GRIHD Project needs, funds availability, and satisfactory performance. The objective of the assignment is for the Procurement Specialist to provide procurement and contract management services in accordance with World Bank's Procurement Regulations applicable to the GRIHD Project. This is intended to ensure adequate procurement and contract management capacity of TDB and the GHVC Fund / Fund Manager to accelerate the implementation of the GRIHD Project activities and ensure procurement and execution of GRIHD Project activities within scope, time, and quality to achieve value for money.
- The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: <https://www.tdbgroup.org/procurement>
- TDB now invites eligible individual consultants ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (**cover/application letter summarizing the relevant experience and indicating its relevance to the assignment, detailed curriculum vitae (CV), copies of documentary evidence of academic qualifications, experience, professional qualifications, and registration/licensing with professional bodies**). The shortlisting criteria are:
  - A minimum a Bachelors' Degree in Procurement, Management, Business Administration, Accounting, Law, Engineering or closely related field from a recognized institution;
  - A minimum of twelve (12) Years of general experience in the procurement field.
  - A minimum of seven (7) years of combined work experience in similar assignments such as procurement of works, goods, non-consulting services and consulting services with World Bank-funded projects or similar multi-development bank or development partner-funded projects.
  - Be registered with valid membership and valid annual practicing license from recognized professional body.
  - Fluency in English is required.
- The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" First Published July 2016 and Revised Fifth Edition September 2023, ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection of Individual Consultants method set out in the Procurement Regulations:
- Further information can be obtained at the address below from 0900 to 1700 hours East African Time (EAT) from Monday to Friday excluding lunch hour (1230 to 1400hours EAT) and public holidays. All inquiries should be sent to the following email address: [wbtaprocurments@tdbgroup.org](mailto:wbtaprocurments@tdbgroup.org)
- Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the e-mail address: [procurement@tdbgroup.org](mailto:procurement@tdbgroup.org) by **November 04<sup>th</sup>, 2025 1700 hours (EAT- Nairobi)** and quoting the reference "**KE-TDB-517726-CS-INDV - Procurement Specialist (Individual Consultant)**" in the e-mail subject line.

Dawit Amare

Associate Group Executive, CSA/POD

The Eastern & Southern African Trade & Development Bank (TDB),

TDB Tower, 184, Lenana Road,

Nairobi, Kenya

Email address: [wbtaprocurments@tdbgroup.org](mailto:wbtaprocurments@tdbgroup.org)

# Suspect in KNH patient killing case faces fresh mental tests

BY RICHARD MUNGUTI

The High Court in Kibera has, for the second time, deferred plea taking for a man accused of killing a patient at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) as the trial judge seeks to establish if he is fit to stand trial.

The suspect, Kennedy Kalombotole, will await two more mental assessment reports before he can plead to the charges. This was after judge asked psychiatrists from KNH and a private doctor to examine him and file the mental reports in court.

The fresh examination orders followed concerns

by one of the victims' lawyers over the impartiality of KNH in conducting a mental assessment on Kalombotole. In the first mental report from KNH presented to the court last month, Kalombotole was cleared to stand trial before three lawyers raised concerns citing the issue of impartiality.

When Kalombotole appeared before the High Court, the defence and victims' lawyers differed sharply on whether KNH was a suitable facility to evaluate the mental condition of the suspect, who is accused of killing a patient admitted at the country's largest referral health facility.

The court heard that the suspect was in the process of undergoing a second evaluation at KNH, and the court was now awaiting a formal report.

The victims' lawyers questioned whether the hospital could offer an impartial mental assessment given the alleged offence occurred within its premises. The judge heard from the victims' family lawyer that KNH was an interested party in the matter and might not be the best facility to assess the mental fitness of the suspect.

"KNH is perhaps not the best institution to guide the court on the wellness of the accused, consid-

ering the offence was allegedly committed there," the victims' lawyer told the court. However, defence lawyers said it was ironic that the victims were the ones questioning the hospital's neutrality.

They noted that if there was any reason to doubt the fairness of the assessment, it should come from the defence, not the victims. In a ruling, the judge concurred with the defence lawyers and dismissed claims of bias inferred on the part of KNH, saying professional integrity should be respected.

The judge noted doctors at KNH were among the best-qualified specialists in the country.

**Insecurity** Two police reservists were shot dead near Kaputir on Wednesday evening as tension worsened

## Residents abandon villages in Turkana as bandits take over

Enraged locals blocked roads to protest against what they termed as government inaction in face of increased attacks

BY SAMMY LUTTA

Insecurity is worsening in the newly-created Aroo sub-county, on the border of Turkana-West Pokot counties, with families fleeing their homes and institutions, including schools, closing down.

Residents are blocking roads to protest what they termed as inaction by the government in the wake of increased attacks against them and National Police Reservists.

Residents lamented that violence is growing despite a promise by authorities that the new administrative unit will enhance security.

Creation of Aroo sub-county was meant to end decades of conflict on the border. However, months later, residents say the situation is worse with bandits now striking with impunity. Border villages and trading centres, including Kapelbok, Nakwamoru, Lorogon, Kainuk and Kaakong have reported increased attacks, forcing out families and disrupting schooling as even as national examinations approach.

Turkana County Police Commander John Tarus said two police reservists were shot dead near Kaputir on Wednesday evening.

"The two who were killed were part of a multi-agency security team on

regular patrol. They were on a motorcycle," Mr Tarus said.

The victims, identified as Lowas Ikari and Eyapan Loluk from Nawoyaregae village, had been providing security to farmers at Lokwar irrigation scheme. Police said the men were on their way back home when they were killed.

The killings sparked outrage, with residents blocking the Kapenguria-Lokichar road at Kaputir Junction using burning tyres and tree branches. Long queues of vehicles, including buses, matatus, PSVs and trucks heading to Kakuma Refugee Camp and South Sudan, stretched for several kilometres.

"I left Lodwar at 3 am and expected to reach Kitale by 10 am for a meeting. It is 11 am and I am still stranded at Kaputir Junction with no shops to buy food or drinks. I am hungry and thirsty. I don't know when the road will reopen," said Mr Ian Temba, one of the stranded passengers.

Residents in villages such as Kapelbok, Nakwamoru, Lorogon, Kainuk, and Kaakong report increased raids. The new sub-county's security officers remain confined to Kainuk town, the residents lamented.

They recounted confrontations with officers who claim their mandate ends at the Kainuk cess point, effectively abandoning anyone beyond it. "We have clashed with officers who tell us their mandate ends at the Kainuk checkpoint. So people like Mzee Emanikor, who was shot dead on October 9 while collecting firewood beyond the bridge, are left exposed," said Ms Mary Ngilimo of Kainuk.

She recalled how only four officers attended the burial of Mr Elpan Pachu, the only NPR in Kailoseget village who was killed alongside Mr Isaac Ilikwel near River Malmalite.

"A police reservist was killed just behind Kainuk Police Station. The



An armoured personnel carrier patrolling in Kainuk town yesterday. SAMMY LUTTA | NATION

gun was recovered, but officers didn't act or pursue the killers," she said.

Ms Ngilimo said that poor relations between residents and administrators have worsened insecurity.

"I once reported a bandit who had threatened to kill me while I was herding goats. I gave the police his name and directions to where they could find him, but nothing was done. Most of us are widows who just want peace to farm and run small businesses," she said.

Mr Benson Loyanai, a Kaputir resident, said three NPRs had been killed and one left with life-threatening injuries in recent weeks.

"Our sub-county is heavily militarised with several police units and Kenya Defence Forces soldiers, yet together with a few armed reservists, our people are being killed. This shows a lack of coordination among the multi-agency security team."

He added that vandalised schools such as Nakuse and Lokwar primaries, destroyed by bandits in 2023, had yet to be rebuilt despite govern-

ment promises that the KDF would undertake reconstruction as part of a resettlement plan.

"Besides recruiting police reservists, we need a police post in the area. For now, we rely on reservists who are being killed by both bandits and security officers who mistake them for attackers," said Mr Loyanai.

In Nakwamoru village, parents have pulled their children out of school for fear of attacks despite the fact that national exams are fast approaching.

"At Nakwamoru, one person was killed and another injured in an attack on Monday evening. On Tuesday morning, Moses Ekeru, an NPR from Kapelbok village, was shot. He is recovering at Lodwar County and Referral Hospital," said Mr Samuel Abei, a Kapelbok resident.

"We thought the new sub-county would improve coordination among security agencies. The response from security personnel was sluggish in both cases," he lamented.

Turkana Governor Jeremiah Lomo-

rukai and Turkana South MP Ariko Namoit condemned the attacks, saying the presence of security agencies in the area had not improved safety.

"We can't sit back as our people are being killed every day. We are going to the affected areas, especially where police reservists were attacked," said Mr Lomorukai.

The governor said the killing of police reservists exposed a disconnect within the security apparatus.

"We need an emergency meeting to chart the way forward. Our people are dying from bandit attacks, stray bullets, drought, and disease," he said.

Dr Namoit said insecurity in Aroo had become 'a pandemic,' worsened by poor coordination among security teams. "We have been crying about this for months, but nothing has been done. We have seen helicopters hovering and landing in bandit-held areas, and soon after, people nearby are attacked," he said.

Governor Lomorukai accused Aroo Sub-County security officials of neglecting their duties.

The two who were killed were part of a multi-agency security team on regular patrol. They were on a motorcycle

John Tarus, Turkana County Police Commander





# SMART CITIES FORUM

2025

**Theme:**  
**'Smart Cities for a Sustainable Urban Future'**

 **30<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025**

 **Two Rivers Mall**



Every October 31st, the world marks World Cities Day to reflect on the urbanisation phenomenon and sustainable development. To bring this global agenda closer home, Nation Media Group (NMG), in partnership with stakeholders, will host the Smart Cities Forum 2025. It will bring together government leaders, private sector players, urban planners, academia, innovators, and development partners to explore solutions shaping Africa's Smart Cities Agenda.

- SECTORS INVOLVED**
-  Smart Building & Homes
  -  E-mobility
  -  Smart Transport
  -  Smart Utility Solutions
  -  Smart Manufacturing
  -  Smart Healthcare
  -  Smart Government (E-governance)
  -  Smart Security Systems
  -  Clean Cooking
  -  Innovation Hubs

**OPPORTUNITIES**

Speaker | Exhibition | 360 Degree Media | Experientials | Master class | Networking | Family Fun.

To participate please contact:

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SCAN TO REGISTER AS A DELEGATE/EXHIBITOR



An Initiative of



# National News

## Conference It's a platform for driving policy reforms to boost pension enrolment and improve retirement payouts Experts urge wider pension coverage

Over 80 per cent of Kenya's elderly population still works to meet basic needs

BY MILLICENT MWOLOLO

The third edition of the East African Pensions Conference and Expo opened in Nairobi yesterday with a call to expand pension coverage and tackle old-age poverty in Kenya. Hosted by the Nation Media Group (NMG), the annual forum has become a key regional platform for driving policy reforms to boost pension enrolment and improve retirement payouts.

Official data show that more than 80 per cent of Kenya's elderly population still works to meet basic needs, highlighting concerns over the adequacy of retirement benefits. Analysts warn that low savings and meagre payouts have forced many retirees, including those above 60, to remain in active employment.

NMG Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Odundo underscored the need for financial literacy to strengthen pension coverage.

"Staying updated with financial tools and knowledge is not a luxury—it's a necessity," he said during the conference themed 'Retirement Planning: Get Started Now - Tujipange Mapema'.

Mr Odundo said the event seeks to bridge the gap between the pensions sector's potential and actual participation, noting that financial awareness is key to ending old-age poverty.

Kenya's pensions sector has grown steadily, with total assets surpassing Sh2.3 trillion, signalling increased public confidence. However, only 19 per cent of the country's workforce actively contributes to a pension scheme, leaving millions of informal sector workers uncovered.

According to the Retirement Benefits Authority (RBA), pension assets rose from Sh476.8 billion in 2023 to Sh2.25 trillion by December 2024, driven by the rollout of the NSSF Act and rising awareness of retirement planning. Public Investments and Assets Management Principal Secretary Cyrell Wagunda Odede said a dignified retirement is built by choice, not by chance. He added that as Kenyans live longer and traditional family support structures weaken, more elderly citizens are slipping into poverty. The government's Inua Jamii cash transfer programme, which provides Sh2,000 monthly to those aged 70 and above, is part of ongoing efforts to cushion the aged from destitution.

The two-day conference continues today with discussions focused on innovation, inclusion, and regional strategies to boost retirement savings across East Africa.



Secretary and Director of Pensions, The National Treasury, Michael Kagika, makes his address.



Nation Media Group CEO Geoffrey Odundo delivers his remarks.



Participants register for the East African Pensions Conference & Expo 2025 at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre, Nairobi, yesterday. The event's theme is "Retirement Planning: Get Started Now." PHOTOS | WILFRED NYANGARESI | NATION



Sanlam Life Insurance Kenya Chief Executive Officer and Principal Officer Jacqueline Karasha speaks during the event.



Equity Life Assurance Kenya Deputy Managing Director Calvince Onduru addresses participants.

# OPINION

## Cybercrime law is oppressive, does not serve public interest

**O**n the morning Kenyans woke up to the tragic news of Raila Odinga's passing, President William Ruto signed the Computer Misuse and Cybercrime (Amendment) Act 2024 into law. As the nation mourned one of its most significant political figures, a piece of legislation tabled just three days after Gen Z protesters stormed Parliament quietly became law. The timing meant a bill with far-reaching implications received little public scrutiny during national grief.

What makes this law troubling isn't just its content but how it got here. Public participation, constitutionally required for all legislation, was inadequate. Those who submitted recommendations found them ignored. Legal firm Oraro and Company warned that Section 27's vague language and lack of judicial oversight could lead to arbitrary enforcement and criminalisation of legitimate public discourse. They recommended clear thresholds, due process, and constitutional protections. None of this made it into the final law. Parts of this law indeed address real problems. SIM swap fraud has become a pandemic, with Safaricom customers losing millions as hackers hijack phone numbers to access mobile money. The law criminalises this with fines of Sh200,000 or two years imprisonment. It tackles phishing with penalties of Sh300,000 or three years. These provisions target genuine threats.

But then the penalty structure goes sideways. Hack someone's M-Pesa and steal their savings? Maximum fine is Sh200,000. Phish someone's bank details and drain their account? You pay Sh300,000 or three years in jail. Post a meme that hurts a politician's feelings? Sh20 million or ten years in prison is your punishment. Stealing money gets you two to three years. Hurting feelings gets you 10 years and fines 67 times higher.

Section 27 criminalises speech that "detrimentally affects" someone, is of "indecent or grossly offensive nature," or is "likely to cause apprehension or fear." Who decides what's grossly offensive? If a corruption exposé detrimentally affects an official's reputation, is that criminal?

**When those who expose graft face harsher punishment than those who commit fraud, then something is fundamentally wrong**



**Nelson Amenya | Legislation**

The law doesn't say. In the UK, online harassment maxes out at six months while fraud gets ten years. South Africa sets cyber harassment at three years, fraud at 15. Kenya has flipped this completely.

A 2022 study by the Africa Centre for Strategic Studies examined restrictive cyber laws across the continent and found a consistent pattern. Tanzania's 2015 Cybercrimes Act, ostensibly passed to fight digital crime, instead became a tool to silence opposition. The law's broad definitions and disproportionate penalties enabled the unjustified detention, arrest, and intimidation of opposition figures, independent journalists, and activists. The study found these laws fail to reduce online harassment but succeed spectacularly at stifling dissent and political debate. Similar patterns emerged in Uganda, Zambia, and Benin, where vague cyber harassment provisions were weaponised against critics while actual cybercriminals continued operating.

Think about the incentive structure this creates. A young person now faces lighter consequences for running a phishing scheme that steals actual money than for posting a critical meme.

Here's what makes people angry to post the memes in the first place: an educated young Kenyan can't find

work, then logs into TikTok to see politicians' money-worshipping and wealth flaunting. That disconnect breeds frustration. This law doesn't address the frustration, it just criminalises expressing it, while treating actual theft more leniently. The provision letting the National Computer and Cybercrimes Coordination Committee declare websites inaccessible without court approval is concerning. One appointed committee can silence entire platforms. Without a process. Just an executive decision. They could wake up and shut down X for being a threat to "national security".

For ordinary Kenyans, the implications are stark. That tweet criticising county services? Potentially criminal. That Facebook post questioning a governor's project? Could be harassment. Activists risk prosecution for causing officials apprehension. Satirists operate under threat of bankruptcy in long court battles or prison.

Then there's the provision criminalising sharing sensitive documents: five years in prison. This directly targets whistleblowers who leak evidence of corrupt deals, inflated tenders, misused public funds. The civil servant exposing fraudulent procurement, the insider documenting kickbacks, the employee providing proof of embezzlement all face five years. That's double the sentence for phishing, two and a half times the sentence for SIM swap fraud. The message is clear: exposing financial wrongdoing carries harsher consequences than committing it.

VPNs will proliferate. Anonymous accounts will multiply. Satire will get subtler. The law won't stop criticism, just drive it underground where distinguishing legitimate speech from actual harassment becomes harder.

Constitutional petitions challenging the law have been filed in court and received conservatory orders. These cases will test whether courts will allow this law to stand or strike down its most egregious provisions. Changes needed: replace subjective terms with measurable standards, rebalance penalties so fraud isn't lighter than speech, require judicial approval for website blocking, explicitly protect online civic space, journalism and whistle-blowing.

When those who expose corruption face harsher punishment than those who commit fraud, then something is fundamentally wrong. More citizens can join or file additional petitions. Democracy isn't just what Parliament passes, it's what citizens defend. Right now, that defense matters more than ever.

Mr Amenya is a whistleblower, strategy consultant and start-up mentor. [www.nelsonamenya.com](http://www.nelsonamenya.com)

## AI can help cut inequalities in education

**T**he opportunities that AI offers African teachers and students are immense, with its education market in the Middle East and Africa projected to hit \$1.7 billion by 2030. In Sub-Saharan Africa, where student-teacher ratios can reach 50:1, and many children still lack access to quality learning resources, the need for innovative solutions is urgent. What excites me about AI in African education is the potential to address persistent inequalities. Students in under-resourced schools have had fewer opportunities just because teachers lack access to support, materials, or professional development. AI can change this dynamic, making support accessible even in the most remote classrooms.

AI can drive change in schools, but only if it is shaped to fit the realities of African classrooms, rather than forcing classrooms to adapt to the technology. The promise lies in AI's power to personalise learning, helping teachers meet the needs of every student in classes that are often large and diverse. When AI is guided by local priorities, cultural context and teacher expertise, it stops being a futuristic add-on and becomes a practical ally. Several obstacles stand out from our work across Africa. Connectivity remains a major challenge across of Sub-Saharan Africa. Teachers want to use AI tools but are unable to access them when they need them most.

**AI can change this dynamic making support accessible even in the most remote classrooms**



**Niall McNulty | Tech**

Thus, classroom tools need to have offline capabilities, such as pre-generated materials, and tools need to work effectively with intermittent internet connections.

Language barriers present another complexity. While many teachers are comfortable teaching in English, they often need to explain some concepts in local languages. We're working on multilingual capabilities through researching the African language capabilities of leading AI chatbots, but this remains an ongoing challenge that requires careful cultural and linguistic adaptation.

We've heard that teachers want more time to explore and experiment with AI tools. The demanding nature of teaching, particularly in resource-constrained environments, means many educators struggle

to find space for learning new technologies. If adoption is to succeed, professional development and time allowances must be built into the process from the start. The beauty of AI integration in education lies not in expensive hardware or complex software, but in leveraging the tools teachers already have access to. Across Sub-Saharan Africa, we've discovered that the most practical entry point is often the smart phone in a teacher's pocket.

Our WhatsApp teacher support AI chatbot project in South Africa demonstrates this perfectly. Teachers are already comfortable with WhatsApp; they understand how to send messages, and they can access support instantly without needing new apps or training. When a teacher in a rural classroom needs help differentiating a lesson for mixed-ability learners or wants quick feedback on a lesson plan, they can message our AI assistant and receive immediate, contextualised support. This approach works because it builds on existing digital behaviours rather than requiring teachers to learn entirely new systems. Teachers who start with familiar interfaces develop confidence that extends to other AI tools over time.

At Cambridge, we believe the power of AI in education lies in a human-centred approach that starts "where teachers are", empowering them as architects of learning, not just consumers of tech-

nology. It is this approach that is key to helping students navigate change and use technology effectively. A recent Cambridge report, 'Preparing learners to thrive in a changing world', which captures the views of nearly 7,000 teachers and students across 150 countries, shows that while technology is widely embraced to support teaching and learning, over a third of teachers surveyed (34 per cent) selected over-reliance on technology as the greatest challenge that technology might pose in preparing students for the future. We believe it is essential for students to develop a solid foundation of subject knowledge to help them interpret information critically and effectively.

This insight is one reason we are focused on helping African education systems to avoid the challenges other regions have faced in adopting technology. Our approach emphasises teacher training, infrastructure readiness, and gradual implementation, rather than rapid, large-scale deployments that too often fail to deliver their intended outcomes.

We've structured our Getting Started with AI in the Classroom guide around practical scenarios that teachers encounter daily and our professional development programme for STEM teachers exemplifies this philosophy too.

The writer is AI Product & Innovation Leader, Cambridge University Press & Assessment

A PUBLICATION OF THE NATION MEDIA GROUP



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Published at Nation Centre, Kimathi Street, and printed at Mombasa Road, Nairobi, by Nation Media Group PLC  
P.O. Box 49010, Nairobi 00100  
[editor@ke.nationmedia.com](mailto:editor@ke.nationmedia.com)  
Registered at the GPO as a newspaper

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## DAILY NATION

## Step up negotiations to end lecturers' strike

The strike by lecturers in the public universities that has paralysed learning in the institutions for more than 30 days is raging on. As a result, students are idling on the campuses, and it is even worse for the freshers. The latter have not had the guidance they needed for their crucial orientation.

Hopefully, reason will prevail, with the parties to the negotiations closing ranks to ease the suffering of the young people. These universities are the source of the high-calibre manpower that the country seriously needs for its national development and prosperity. But unless the students are taught, this will remain a dream, as those who were just rounding up their courses in readiness for graduation are also stuck.

The lecturers have rejected a suggestion by the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) and the Inter-Public Universities Councils Consultative Forum to renegotiate their 2025-29 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

For its part, the Universities Academic Staff Union (Uasu) argues that the proposed Sh3.1 billion allocation is "unacceptable and unrealistic".

The dons are accusing the SRC of "imposing final positions instead of offering negotiable ranges", declaring that this is a violation of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to collective bargaining.

According to Uasu, the 2025-29 CBA proposal is inadequate and does not reflect the current economic realities, including the high inflation and the rising cost of living. The dons' union is also protesting disparities in remuneration, as other public servants, including schoolteachers, have reportedly been given better deals.

The situation is bound to get worse as the parties dig in, with the vice-chancellors threatening to withhold the striking lecturers' pay. The universities have also warned that union dues could be suspended and disciplinary action taken against the lecturers who disrupt learning.

Unfortunately, the government seems to take this as business as usual. It is a serious crisis that should be resolved.



## Sewerage for slums vital

Sanitation is a major challenge in the informal settlements in Nairobi and other towns. Lack of it is not just uncomfortable for households, but it also exposes the slum dwellers to the risk of contracting communicable diseases.

Some people are forced to resort to open defecation, exposing them to possible humiliation, or are becoming more innovative, hence the emergence of the so-called 'flying toilets'.

The few existing shared facilities are often in a state of disrepair and are overcrowded. There is also no proper waste management, leading to unsanitary conditions and increasing the risk of diseases such as cholera, dysentery, and typhoid. The high population puts a strain on the minimal infrastructure, with the shared toilets quickly becoming full and difficult to empty. They unleash a foul smell.

The good news, though, is that the Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company is connecting informal settlements to its sewerage system to eliminate the flow of raw sewage and curb sanitation-related diseases.

A project being implemented in the Mukuru kwa Reuben area is connecting households to sewer lines using cheaper and faster methods to improve sanitation across the informal settlements. The modern system is cheaper, quicker to instal and uses flexible pipes. Some 200 households have been connected to the sewerage system, benefiting 80,000 slum dwellers.

The 3.9 kilometres of sewer line have greatly improved sanitation in the area, and this is being extended to other locations. The project is expected to cost between Sh40 million and Sh50 million and targets to connect 2,000 households and improve access to clean water.

The provision of decent sanitation is a basic right that should be enjoyed by all.



## After Raila's exit, Ruto faces a bleak political landscape

In political terms, former Prime Minister Raila Odinga was like a giant, African bull buffalo which provided a home for pests on the long hairs of its head, its ears, its belly, and every inch of its hard-to-reach hide. So long as it was well-fed and healthy, the parasites were welcome to its warmth and perhaps even a little bit of blood.

With his demise, many politicians and technocrats who owed their careers to Mr Odinga and those who don't have a strong standing in Nyanza and in ODM will struggle. The "experts" in government will be hard-pressed to negotiate largesse and elbow room from the system. Previously, they could walk the Savannah with confidence and nibble on sweet grass under the protection of the giant horns of the big buffalo. Today they are but scattered browsers, fully exposed to wild dogs, hyenas and the odd lion. It is just a matter of time before something eats them.

But my thinking is that the obvious orphan-in-chief, is President William Ruto. To provide some context, in 2018 I took a market tour of Nyanza. A market tour in the news business used to be sitting around bus stops, restaurants, bars and in town halls, listening to your customers. The Kisumu bus park is a unique place; folks read and discuss the newspapers and politics in general. Every journalist who comes calling visits the bus park to listen to the sound of the river. It was shortly after Mr Odinga had shaken hands with then President Uhuru Kenyatta on the steps at Harambee House, Nairobi. I looked at the circle of "Luopean" faces, grinning mischievously at me. "Uhuru is no longer the enemy," one of the men told me. So who is? I asked. "It is Ruto," he told me. The other guys laughed and enthusiastically agreed. Just like he changed perceptions about Mr Kenyatta after the handshake, Mr Odinga rehabilitated Mr Ruto's political image in Nyanza and many other parts of Kenya, such as Western and the Coast. Just by shaking hands.

Mr Odinga gave Ruto's government the final coat of legitimacy when he agreed to rec-

Together they might have delivered a second term for Mr Ruto by winning the majority of the votes...



Mutuma Mathiu | Politics

ognise and join it – of course by "sending experts". Mr Odinga was President Ruto's opponent in the election, he was also the complainant in the election petition at the Supreme Court. When he recognised the Kenya Kwanza government, the last vestiges of resistance against the government collapsed. Those who had been saying "not my President, not my government" suddenly found themselves without a leg to stand on. If the man who lost to the President had embraced him, who are you, a mere bystander to continue holding off? The Broad-Based Government was a strong legitimising factor for Kenya Kwanza and one of its bigger political victories.

For more than 30 years, Mr Odinga was the king of the streets. He represented a slum constituency for the longest time; he had networks in every poor neighbourhood and he commanded the political champions of those spaces. He had an almost direct control of the youth from these poorer neighbourhoods and they followed him into political battle with courage and no questions. After the 2017 election, I watched him personally lead wave after wave of youths into the Nairobi central business district to protest what they said was theft of the election. Mr Odinga had tremendous personal courage and political audacity. Because of that he owned the streets of Nairobi and was a formidable political opponent.

Conversely, it is very difficult to have pro-

tests in the streets of Nairobi without the involvement of the Odinga political system in the city, which is what the Gen Zs tried to do. By committing to the other side, Mr Odinga's system cleared the streets for the regime. Hardened youths from the slums with experience in street combat and love for action not only faced the less experienced university students, but they contaminated the protests with "false flag" crime, especially attacks on businesses, clashes with the police and generally creating conditions that justified a tough crackdown by the regime – not that much encouragement was needed for that. In that way, in my opinion, the Odinga system in the city has kept the streets clear for the Kenya Kwanza government and kept it safe from the wrath of a population that is sometimes quite dissatisfied with regime policy and actions.

In Parliament, theoretically Kenya Kwanza has the support of 179 MPs and Azimio 158. But this is a misleading, helicopter view. Up close, ODM's 89 members support the government, but Jubilee's and wiper's combined 56, do not. Similarly, there are many MPs, especially from the Mt Kenya region, who are in government in name only, their souls are in DCP. Theoretically, if ODM were to leave the government, then maybe Kenya Kwanza could experience a mathematical risk of a confidence vote, but with the kind of MPs there are, it is just wishful thinking: this is the President's Parliament, it will not sack him.

Finally, Mr Odinga and Mr Ruto were some of the most talented and hardened campaigners in Kenyan politics today. Together they might have delivered a second term for Mr Ruto by winning the majority of the votes in the Rift Valley, North Eastern, Nyanza, Western, the Coast region and a considerable number in Nairobi. Without Mr Odinga, the President faces a grim re-election battle. And it will take a tremendous amount of police violence to keep the streets clear.

Not all Raila orphans are in ODM.

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# Why are journalists missing the boat as memoirs rule the day?

**M**ourning former Premier Raila Odinga last weekend, editor and book publisher John Mwazemba recalled his meeting with the icon earlier in the year, during which they discussed a possible book project.

In the article titled "Raila's memoir that never was", published in the *Saturday Nation* on October 18, Mr Mwazemba says he had hoped to do the second volume of Odinga's memoirs, covering the period from 2013 to 2025, with the working title *The Flame Rekindled*.

Odinga's first volume of memoirs, *The Flame of Freedom*, written with his long-term associate journalist Sarah Elderkin, was published in 2013, and covers key moments in his life up to 2012. The sequel proposed by Mr Mwazemba would have been a captivating read, considering the dramatic political events that have ensued.

Kenyans have not seen a dull political moment since the 2013 elections. Odinga was not just the constant; he authored and directed the script, then starred in the play. Like *The Flame of Freedom*, a book in Odinga's words reflecting on these developments would have been a sure best seller. The challenge now is for Mr Mwazemba and others to rekindle the flame.

This second volume would have added to a growing list of Kenyan public figures' autobiographies and memoirs. This year alone, the *Daily Nation* has serialised books by former Attorney-General and Speaker of the National Assembly Justin Bedan Muturi (*The Fight for Order*), corporate leader and lawyer Francis Okomo Okello (*Concert of Life*), former minister Marsden Herman Madoka (*At the Ready*) and veteran public servant, corporate leader, politician and lawyer Albert Ekirapa (*Wings of Ambition*).

Many more individuals, in the public and private sectors, have written and published books.

What does this explosion of personally released biographies mean? On the one hand, the autobiographies and memoirs are a welcome addition to our knowledge of our past, a boost to the country's literature and a documentation of hitherto uncaptured history. However, they are also a disturbing indictment of a trust deficit in journalism, as well as a missed opportunity for senior journalists.

Some book critics have argued that not all public figures need to write about themselves.

**A major problem with autobiographies and memoirs is they can never be impartial**



**Pamella Sittoni Public Editor**



If their wish is to document their contribution to the country, this should have been captured by the media during their time in service. Or, could it be that the Kenyan media does not celebrate the country's heroes and disparage the villains enough?

While most of the autobiographies are a joy to read, some have been a disappointment for literary enthusiasts; hundreds of pages filled with publicly available archival text and photographs.

Their authors have mainly narrated what has already been published in the media, with perhaps some additional information about their childhood and families.

Why do some of these people insist on writing books, always at a great personal cost, including paying ghostwriters and printers? It seems like many public figures do not trust the media to capture their stories truthfully and comprehensively. Some of those who have decided or desired to write their own stories say they feel hard done by the media because it is unable to listen to their side of the story due to other prevailing influenc-

es on the media's agenda. They wish to "set the record straight" on matters they were involved or linked to. Some want to "reveal the secrets" surrounding events and developments with which they were associated or witnessed.

A major problem with autobiographies and memoirs is that even the best-written ones can never be impartial. Inconvenient truths will not be allowed to get in the way of a good story. Certainly, an autobiography of one of the "Covid millionaires", or the architects of the Goldenberg or the Anglo Leasing scandals, will not confess the subjects' guilt. It will instead strive to obliterate this from our collective memory, or to feed us on the "alternative truth". Nobody will write about themselves to look bad.

As happens in other parts of the world, senior Kenyan journalists owe the country biographies of public figures. Political and business reporters, who have not only covered these leaders but also interacted with them over a long period, are best placed to write impartially about them.

They would draw on thorough research, their observations and conversations with the leaders and those who worked and related to them. This, combined with the journalists' flair for writing, would reignite Kenyans' interest in local books and enrich our literature.

Contact the Public Editor to raise ethical concerns or request a review of published material. Reach out: Email: [publiceditor@ke.nationmedia.com](mailto:publiceditor@ke.nationmedia.com). Mobile Number: 0741978786. Twitter and linkedin: PublicEditorNMG.



Raila Odinga, chief guest at a book fair, shares a light moment with pupils at the Oxford University Press stand. Looking on is OUP General Manager, John Mwazemba (red tie). FILE | NATION

Put on whatever makes you feel festive, bring your friends and get ready to raise your glass



**Sebastian Groth Festival**

## Oktoberfest: A toast of shared traditions

**W**hen you think of Germany, the picture that often comes to mind is people in leather trousers, giant beer mugs and brass bands playing. That's Oktoberfest. What

began more than 200 years ago as a royal wedding celebration in Munich has grown into the world's largest folk festival. Despite its name, Oktoberfest actually begins in September. Germans simply like to start the party early.

On October 24 and 25, Nairobi Street Kitchen will transform into a Bavarian-style beer garden as the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Kenya brings Oktoberfest to Nairobi. More elements of everyday German life have found a home in Nairobi – and vice versa.

Craft beer has become a trend across Europe – and Nairobi is catching on fast. A standout is Crafty Chameleon, a beer garden in the west of the city founded by a German-Kenyan entrepreneur. What makes it special isn't just the décor, but the brewery itself: every beer is brewed on-site with German ingredients.

Elsewhere in Nairobi, another German flavour has arrived: a currywurst stand called Dieter's Grill – Authentic German Wurst. Currywurst – a sliced sausage topped with a spiced ketchup-curry sauce – is a Berlin street-food classic. It was for decades Germany's most popular canteen dish until recently. This German favourite has found fans in Nairobi.

Across Germany, African restaurants are gaining popularity. Whether it's nyama choma, chapati or sukuma wika, the flavours travel well.

Clothing, too, tells stories. In Bavaria, people proudly wear Lederhosen and Dirndl dresses at festivals – not just as outfits but as symbols of identity and heritage. In Kenya, Maasai shukas and Samburu beadwork carry a similar weight: they express belonging, history and pride.

Music is another bridge across continents. Traditional Bavarian brass bands may be a highlight at Oktoberfest, but modern Germany is just as famous for its electronic music. Berlin's techno beats have long conquered the world, and now Nairobi's club scene is picking up the rhythm. DJs are blending electronic sounds with Afro-fusion beats and local styles.

But music here is more than nightlife – it's a tradition. Every year, the Kenya Music Festival brings together students, celebrating cultural diversity through rhythm and performance. From October 30 to November 8, a German Youth Orchestra will perform in Nairobi and Kisumu, connecting with Kenyan youngsters and musicians. On October 31, the Goethe-Institut will host The Jam Concert, where three Kenyan artists will take the stage.

Put on whatever makes you feel festive, bring friends and get ready to raise your glass. Or as we say in Germany – Prost! Join us for Oktoberfest or one of the concerts and celebrate how cultures meet, mix and make memories together.

Groth is the German Ambassador to Kenya

# AI can end pain of costly construction

**W**hen Moses Kamau finally decided to build his family home in Murang'a, it was to be the start of a beautiful chapter. He had saved for years, drawn up plans and hired a contractor who said the house would cost not more than Sh3 million.

However, at the time the house was almost complete, Kamau had spent close to Sh7 million. It was unbelievable that an initial cost would double by the end of the project!

Kamau's story reflects the frustration of Kenyans who embark on construction projects with hope, only to face inflated costs and poor work-

**AI-powered project monitoring can bring transparency**



**Samuel Wanyoike Digital technology**

payments based on faith, not proof. This human-driven system leaves room for error, misunderstanding and exploitation.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has the potential to revolutionise construction. With the ability to analyse large sets of data, AI can help predict material requirements, flag suspicious estimates and forecast budget overruns. By studying previous projects and regional cost trends, AI can generate realistic, evidence-based budgets.

AI-powered project monitoring can bring transparency to construction. Imagine homeowners receiving real-time updates on progress, material deliveries and timelines and all this being backed by verifiable data.

Contractors would benefit too. Clear digital records can help them plan better, manage resources efficiently and build stronger client trust.

Of course, technology must be coupled with integrity, skilled oversight and regulation. It can act as the guardrail that keeps projects on track and stakeholders honest.

Kenya's construction boom is not slowing down yet families are paying far more than they should. It's time to embrace digital transformation.

A dream home should cost what it should and not twice as much.

Mr Wanyoike is Director, Smart Build Solutions. [info@smartbuildsolutions.co.ke](mailto:info@smartbuildsolutions.co.ke)

manship. At the heart of this is transparency and accurate data.

For decades, construction has operated on trust and intuition. Contractors make estimates based on experience, not data; homeowners make

# Letters

## THE CUTTING EDGE by THE WATCHMAN

Send an e-mail to the watchman@ke.nationmedia.com or write to The Watchman, POB 49010, Nairobi 00100

**Uphold patriotism**• Politicians should uphold and respect the Constitution to foster patriotism in youth, says John Mukiri. "Parents must be careful about the comments they make against the country, as children can pick them up and develop the wrong attitude. Even if what they say may be true, they should not force their personal views on the children. Let's boost patriotism." His contact is mukirijohn57@gmail.com.

**Humorous Raila**• ODM founding leader Raila Odinga was a seasoned politician, but Dr Kennedy Mityoro Mochabo also loved his humorous side. Says he: "I once heard Agwambo giving the descriptions in fluent Kiswahili of the different names of the hairs growing in various parts of our bodies, starting with nywele. Can anyone explain why he did this? I found it very interesting." His contact is kmochabo@hotmail.com.

**Power outage**• Residents of Ndori Village in Koguta, Upper Nyakach, Kisumu County, David Jasondu says, have been without electricity for several days after an electric pole collapsed. The Kenya Power office at Katito is aware but no action has been taken. "We were told technicians were handling emergencies in Bondo, the late Raila's hometown. How long will we continue to suffer?" His contact is Tel 0722765856.

**Free education**• Education, the constitutional right of every Kenyan child, and a social equaliser, should be free of charge, says David Yator. Education Secretary Julius Ogamba's directives on school fees with reduced capitation and poorly run schools, he laments, are just hampering education. "The late President Mwai Kibaki proved that free education is possible." His email address is davidyator14@gmail.com.

**Rogue officers**• Reports on security officers engaging in crime are worrying Cate Makena. She poses: "How can safety be assured when police are the thieves and hijackers? Even on the roads, bribery and extortion by these security officers are rampant. The government should improve the officers' welfare with better remuneration and programmes to boost their incomes." Her contact is katem301145@gmail.com. Have a secure day, won't you!

## LETTERS

### Kahiga talk risk fuelling ethnic division

Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga's remarks that Jakom's passing is a blessing to the people of Mt Kenya are reckless and insensitive, risking the alienation of communities and fuelling unnecessary divisions. The National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) and the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission should take swift action to ensure Mr Kahiga and others making such utterances are held accountable. These statements appear aimed at gaining political mileage rather than promoting unity and must be condemned

**Opiyo Oduwo, Kisumu**

### Why are our success cards still imported?

Once again, it is the season of exams, and as is tradition, many candidates will find themselves flooded with success cards. A noble gesture indeed, though the downside is that most of the success cards in the market — and indeed other types such as wedding and birthday cards — are imported from China. The less said about the grammatical shortcomings of many of these cards, the better. The troubling question remains: has our industrialisation sunk so low that we can no longer produce such cards locally? To all the Grade Six, Grade Nine, and Form Four candidates — all the best.

**Tom Siambey, Kajiado County**

### Security lessons from Raila's send-off

Last week's send-off of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga was a grand yet chaotic affair, marred by glaring security lapses and logistical hitches that tested Kenya's preparedness to handle the passing of a national icon. While deeply emotional and historic, the event exposed critical gaps in crowd control, coordination and emergency response. As the nation reflects on the farewell of one of its greatest leaders, authorities must draw key lessons from the experience. Kenya needs stronger security systems, better event planning, and tighter inter-agency coordination to ensure order and safety.

**Peter Ojwang', Siaya**

### End strike to save university education

Education is power — the key to success — and this should be understood by everyone, including those who have already made it in life. The ongoing lecturers' strike in public universities, now in its sixth week, shows that education is not being treated with the seriousness it deserves. Students are wasting time and resources, with many resorting to unproductive activities as learning remains at a standstill. It is disheartening that lecturers go unpaid while leaders continue to receive their salaries and allowances on time.

**Onyango Moffat, Rongo University**

### State should prioritise SGR extension

One of the anchor projects of the Kenya Kwanza government, promised for delivery within its first term, is the extension of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) from Naivasha to the Kenya-Uganda border at Malaba. The project, estimated to cost over Sh600 billion, was expected to resume by the end of this year. The completion of the SGR extension would have far-reaching economic benefits while helping the government tackle challenges such as unemployment and debt.

**Opiyo Oduwo, Kisumu.**

## TODAY IN HISTORY



**October 24, 1984:** Eric Cheruiyot Kotut is appointed Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK), replacing Ahmed Abdalla, who took up a post with the International Monetary Fund in Washington, DC. Before his appointment, Mr Kotut had served as Managing Director of the Kenya National Trading Corporation since 1979. Here, Mr Kotut is receiving an audiometer donation from Dr Hironori Makino of San-in-Rosai Hospital, Japan, for hearing tests. COMPILED BY ANNIEL NJOKA

## LETTER OF THE DAY

# We deserve leaders who heal, not those who wound

Recent remarks by Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga, widely seen as celebrating the death of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga, have rightly sparked national outrage. Words carry power, and when spoken by leaders, they shape not only public opinion but the nation's moral conscience. In moments of grief or triumph, what leaders say defines who we are as a people.

This is not the first time reckless speech from public figures has scarred Kenya's soul. Time and again, senior officials have used their platforms to insult,

divide, or inflame rather than unite. That anyone would treat tragedy as a political opportunity instead of a moment for reflection is deeply troubling.

Kenya's political culture has grown dangerously tolerant of verbal impunity. From tribal slurs to veiled threats, such rhetoric erodes our fragile cohesion. The National Cohesion and Integration Commission must prove it is more than symbolic — silence only emboldens those who mock decency.

Unchecked, such political speech risks normalising hatred as entertainment and cru-

elty as courage. When leaders are cheered for their contempt, the nation drifts towards moral decay.

The ripple effect reaches schools, workplaces, and even homes, where intolerance slowly becomes the language of everyday life. What begins as careless talk can, over time, plant the seeds of real conflict.

Citizens, too, must demand higher standards. Leadership is not applause at rallies but empathy, discipline, and respect — virtues that matter most in mourning. Kenya cannot normalise arrogance among lead-

ers while punishing ordinary citizens for less.

If the governor apologises, it must be more than a token act — it should spark honest reflection across the political class. Our democracy will only mature when empathy is seen as strength and humility as a core value of leadership.

Kenya deserves leaders who heal, not those who reopen wounds. Words can divide a nation, or build bridges of reconciliation and hope. The choice lies with those entrusted to lead.

**Joseph Katiku Kioko, Nairobi**



# County News

## Floods warning issued for 39 counties

BY ZEYNAB WANDATI

The Kenya Meteorological Department has issued a heavy rainfall warning for 39 counties, including Nairobi, cautioning of possible flooding as the October–November–December short rains intensify.

According to the advisory, rainfall affecting parts of the Lake Victoria Basin, the Rift Valley and the Highlands West of the Rift Valley is expected to intensify to more than 30mm in 24 hours and spread eastwards to the Central Highlands, Nairobi, and parts of the Southeastern lowlands from Thursday.

Already, flooding has been reported in Budalang'i, Busia County, as heavy downpours continue across western Kenya. The department urged residents in affected areas to stay alert, warning that "floodwaters may appear even where it has not rained heavily, especially downstream."

The alert has drawn public attention to an apparent contradiction between the current heavy rains and the department's earlier forecast predicting depressed rainfall for much of the country. The September outlook projected below-average rainfall for the Northeastern, Southeastern lowlands and Coastal regions, while parts of the western highlands and Northwest were expected to receive near to above-average rainfall.

Meteorologists attribute the uneven rainfall distribution to oceanic patterns linked to a developing negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), expected to persist through November. A negative IOD typically brings drier-than-normal conditions to East Africa, potentially suppressing rainfall during the short rains.

The department noted that the short rains will likely be poorly distributed both in time and space—ample in the west but patchy elsewhere. With a 60 per cent chance of La Niña conditions developing by December, the weatherman said it will continue to monitor oceanic trends closely.

**Crisis** Without a modern factory, farmers are forced to sell their paddy at rock-bottom prices

## Taveta rice farmers plagued by stalled mill and cheap imports



Rice farmers in Kimorogo, Taveta, prepare their fields on February 4, 2020. FILE | NATION

Despite cultivating thousands of acres of land, most farmers say they are yet to see meaningful returns from their labour

BY LUCY MKANYIKA

**A**griculture remains the backbone of Kenya's economy, sustaining millions of livelihoods. Yet for rice farmers in Taveta, Taita Taveta County, that promise has long turned into frustration.

Despite cultivating thousands of acres of land, most farmers say they are yet to see meaningful returns from their labour. They cite escalating input costs, a rigid market structure, and limited government support as major obstacles undermining the crop's profitability.

### Stalled construction

The situation has been worsened by the stalled construction of a Sh45 million rice milling plant, leaving hundreds of farmers at the mercy of brokers and middlemen.

Without a modern processing facility, Taveta's rice farmers are forced to sell their paddy at rock-bottom prices—sometimes as low as Sh40 per kilogramme—to traders from Tanzania, Mwea, and Kisumu. The Tan-

zania buyers process, grade, and package the rice across the border before re-exporting it to Kenya at higher prices, dominating local markets while Kenyan farmers sink deeper into losses.

Across Madarasani, Buruma, Majengo, Kimorigo, Patani Hill, and Marodo, over 1,115 hectares of rice are cultivated twice a year, yielding about 35 bags of 90 kilogrammes per acre. Still, the returns remain dismal.

### Production methods

Uswi Cooperative Rice Farmers Association chairperson Dishon Mzozo said the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) no longer operates a store in Taveta, forcing farmers to transport their produce more than 100 kilometres to Voi.

"Brokers take advantage of our situation," Mr Mzozo said. "They process the rice in their factories and bring it back to Kenya neatly packaged and polished. We need training on better production methods, from seedbed preparation to harvesting, if we are to compete fairly."

Brokers take advantage of our situation. They process the rice in their factories and bring it back to Kenya neatly packaged and polished.

Uswi Cooperative Rice Farmers Association chairperson Dishon Mzozo



Currently, the only functional milling machine in the region is a small diesel-powered unit donated by the Japanese government through JICA in 2016. The ageing equipment, based in Kimorigo, processes just three tonnes a day and lacks the capacity to grade or polish rice.

"It mixes whole and broken grains and cannot polish them," said Stephen Mzirai, chairperson of the Kimorigo Rice Farmers Association. "Most of what we process here is for home use because we cannot meet market standards."

Farmers also struggle to access inputs. Mr Mzirai said they often rely on fertilisers and seeds from Tanzania

and Voi, where they are cheaper and more readily available.

"The county depot at Timbila mainly stocks maize fertiliser, leaving us with few options," he said. "We buy the Saro 5 rice variety from Tanzania and urea fertiliser from Voi. Here in Taveta, agrovets sell a bag at Sh5,000, yet the government price is Sh2,500."

Most farmers still depend on manual cultivation, making rice farming labour-intensive and costly. "We do all the work, but the profits go to brokers across the border," said Mr Mzirai. "It's disheartening."

The farmers have appealed to both the county and national governments to help them access reliable markets, improve infrastructure, and complete the stalled milling plant.

### Private investor

Mr Mzirai said the incomplete facility had raised hopes of breaking free from years of exploitation. "Without a modern plant to process and grade our rice, we will remain dependent on foreign traders," he said.

County Executive for Agriculture Dawson Mzenge said the county is in the process of leasing the plant to a private investor to make it operational.

"We have identified two investors—one for the rice mill and another for the banana plant," he said. "We are finalising valuations and expressions of interest before making the details public."

Mr Mzenge added that the county, in collaboration with the national government, is desilting irrigation canals to expand rice production and reduce flooding.

### Grim reality

"Taveta has the potential to produce much more rice," he said. "The road network has also improved. Previously, farmers could only access their farms on foot or by motorcycle."

However, a visit to Taveta Market along the Taveta-Holili border reveals a grim reality: Tanzanian rice dominates the shelves, prized for its aroma and texture.

"We sell different brands, but the Tanzanian kienyeji variety moves fastest," said trader Masdeen Mutua.

As local farmers count their losses, the uncompleted mill stands as a symbol of broken promises. Unless action is taken soon, Taveta's rice growers fear they will continue labouring for others' gain while imported brands rule their home markets.

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**THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY  
OF EASTERN AFRICA (CUEA)**

"Consecrate them in the Truth"

## 44<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY

**Theme: 'Pilgrims of Hope: Consecrated to Transform Nations through Innovative Education'**

# Together, you will fulfill your promise to society

### MESSAGE FROM THE UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR

One of our University's aims at this time is to continuously enhance our image globally as a beacon of hope for society. The hope society has for The Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) is for it to be a champion of value-based quality education.

CUEA teaches minds and informs the actualisation of learners' potential by additionally injecting values to the education offered to our students. We appreciate and applaud the fact that our University fraternity have corporate appeal. This has kept them active in their respective industries of specialisation. For example, a good number of our faculty and senior administrators are consulting for other institutions and companies. This anchors our education to the job market, which keeps our programmes marketable.

As a University, we also embrace our Catholic Identity by accommodating the needy. Through our charitable scholarship programme – the Cardinal Otunga Memorial Scholarship Fund – we are able to support a good number of our needy students by ensuring they are able to complete their studies irrespective of fee arrears. This Memorial Scholarship Fund raises its funds from the University's staff, operational partners and friends. The fund stands as a testament to our commitment as a University to



H.E. Rt. Rev. Charlse Kasonde.

be a beacon for society's Pilgrims of Hope, especially in education. Initiatives such as the Cardinal Otunga Memorial Scholarship Fund help us in fulfilling our vision.

CUEA's Vision is to empower people to become ethical leaders for Church and Society. This is both for our students and staff. The promise we give our students is that we will mould them to be ethical leaders for the Church and society. As I have insinuated earlier, we do this by inculcating CUEA's Core Values to our students academically and through extracurricular mechanisms. This is what separates CUEA from other universities in our region. It is also what separates graduates of CUEA from their counter-

parts from other universities. Our Graduates should embrace this unique attribute which they have acquired from CUEA, that is, their formation as champions of values.

The formation that our Graduates have undergone in CUEA is what gives them the ability to fulfil what society is hopeful they will fulfill, which is to be ethical leaders for our Church and the society as a whole. And as we look to our graduates to shine bright as they showcase what CUEA stands for, we ask them to be their brother's keeper. Today, people in society are going through myriad challenges socially, financially and even in relation to their faith. It is pertinent for us to hold each other's hand as we navigate the world. Our Graduates should once in a while check up on their classmate and ask them how they are doing. Checking on their friends and classmates will help in reducing cases of acute stress, which leads to health ailments that may end up being fatal. Cases of suicide have seen an unprecedented increase in Kenya. Checking on one's classmates will also help reduce cases of many losing their faith as a result of worldly influences.

Congratulations to our Graduates on your academic and professional achievement. As you go into the world, remember that you too are Pilgrims of Hope. Therefore, I ask you all to come together in prayer.

May God bless our graduates, and may He as well bless The Catholic University of Eastern Africa.

## Forging ahead in the pursuit of ethical empowerment

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Today, we congregate as Pilgrims of Hope who are tasked with and aspire to transform nations of the world through providing innovative quality education to society.

As the University Council, our primary role is to give assurance that The Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) abides by its Mission, Vision, and Purpose Statement, which all centre on empowering our students and staff to become ethical leaders for the Church and society.

The Council has, and continues to work towards ensuring that CUEA has the required human resource and infrastructure to offer quality education to our students. CUEA has successfully made itself self-sustaining, implemented an all-encompassing Enterprise Resource Planning Information System, and is now focusing on growth. This has been made possible by the implementation of our 2018-2030 University Strategic Plan.

At this time, our University is focusing on growth. We have purchased eight and a half acres of land, and we have commenced a project to construct an ultra-modern block of lecture halls within our Main Campus here in Langata, Nairobi. These achievements have been met despite the current challenging university education sector in Kenya. The introduction of a new university funding model and the delayed capitation for Government-Sponsored Students over the years by the Government of Kenya, has led to our delay in reaching certain milestones of the University strategy.

In spite of the unfavourable conditions facing Kenya's university sector, we have dedicated ourselves to working with the Government of Kenya, all other governments in the AMECEA Region, and our fellow universities, to assure sustainability and continuous improvement of the quality of university education in Kenya and the AMECEA Region. We are also committed to creating a conducive academic environment that allows our students, staff and society as a whole, to be innovative as they delve into research and knowledge generation.



Rt. Rev. Mark Kadima Wamukoya.

The uniqueness of research and innovation that is formulated in CUEA actualises its intended purpose. This purpose is to provide research findings that have high impact solutions to societal problems. As such, when implemented, the solutions bring about positive change to society under the banner of community service. As we continue to work towards sustaining and improving the quality of education that our graduates have received for the last several years here in CUEA, we ask that they join us in our never ending venture to make sure our University continuously impacts society. Our graduates can join this quest by:

- Being dedicated and value-driven as they offer specialised services to all, be it professionally or academically. Their success is CUEA's success.
- Mentoring CUEA students, which will enable them to follow their footsteps and prosper in their academic and professional careers.
- Supporting CUEA in whichever way they can to make sure that we continue to fulfil our mission, vision and purpose.

Congratulations to our graduates on their graduation. May they always be champions of an AMECEA Region that yearns for and seeks to become a society that is guided and driven by values.

May God bless our Graduates, their future aspirations, and may He bless us all.

# Pilgrims of Hope to a society deprived of values

### MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR/VICE CHANCELLOR

CUEA's 44th Graduation Ceremony is themed '*Pilgrims of Hope: Consecrated to Transform Nations through Innovative Education*'.

In CUEA, we focus on student-centered learning. The CUEA fraternity are the models and companions of our students as Pilgrims of Hope. This is because before transitioning to Heaven, our students, who have Catholic values instilled in them, must transform into value-based professionals. This is their vehicle to personal satisfaction, innovation and contribution to the progress of societies.

The professionalism lived by our graduates is unleashed to the nations as a transformative impetus to the world; and thus, the value-based professionalism CUEA's Alumni acquired from their Alma Mater is shared with the world.

CUEA is on her growth trajectory. We have developed market and growth-driven programmes. We have purchased more land adjacent to us, on which we shall build the College of Health Sciences and a research-based health facility for our people in the AMECEA region and beyond.

Presently, we are constructing a new tuition facility, as we ready ourselves to receive the first cohort of the Competence Based Curriculum and Education in 2029. This requires serious curriculum and resource preparedness to effectively mount the programmes that will take the country to the next level of growth and socio-economic progress, by creating innovators and ethi-



Very Rev. Prof. Stephen M. Ngari.

cal, value-based leaders.

The world today is facing the brunt of rampant corruption, unchecked socio-economic inequalities, and unprecedented distortion of morality. Those who graduate from CUEA must fulfil what their status as CUEA Graduates promises, which is being champions of value-based professionalism and ethical models. This is because the society is hopeful that the coming generation will rejuvenate the world that faces these unprecedented challenges. That makes our Graduates the vehicles of hope to bring assurance to the world.

In Brian Cagney's summary of leadership requirements, he states: "*The first law of leadership is that your foundation is built through integrity, character, and trust.*"

CUEA's mandate is to inculcate values, high level academic rigor, innovative intellectual culture and transforming services.

These variables and lived traits create opportunities for the society itself in regards to self-sustainability, keeping faith in God and living honourable lives.

In CUEA, the wind beneath the wings that lift our students to heights of value-based professionalism are the lecturers and staff of our University. We the staff must see ourselves as the primary catalyst of our students' academic and professional growth. We are self-driven to teach through the tools accorded to us as a University, and through the examples and modelling, we showcase in our everyday lives. Our task to the students is to mould them with the right skills and dispositions. The recognition of this task is the paradigm change that affects modern university education.

The emphasis of instilling values on the education that we offer to our students is pertinent to modern university studies. Universities are the final training grounds for the world's future leaders. Leadership without honesty and integrity leads to abuse of power. This is why Values need to be inculcated in our students.

The world today is in need of value-based leadership professionally, socially and academically. This is the world our Graduates are stepping into. They are the hope of society, and with the skills and formation they have acquired from CUEA, I am sure that our Graduates are up to the task of fulfilling the promise they are as CUEA Graduates.

Congratulations to our Graduating Class of 2025 on their achievement. As you go forth into the world of work and innovation, may God lead you to greater heights of self-actualisation.



**THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA (CUEA)**

"Consecrate them in the Truth"

# 44<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY

**Theme: 'Pilgrims of Hope: Consecrated to Transform Nations through Innovative Education'**

## We are releasing more than 3,700 principled graduates

**MESSAGE FROM THE DVC ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Today marks yet another significant moment as we celebrate the 44th Graduation Ceremony, just a year after marking the University's 40th Anniversary. May I take this opportunity to most sincerely congratulate the 2024/2025 class that graduates today, for successfully completing their studies at various levels. This year, we have a total of 3,745 graduands who range from certificate, diploma, undergraduate, postgraduate diploma, masters and PhD. Indeed, we have over 70 PhDs graduating today.

Dear graduands, we want to really appreciate you for the commitment and resilience that you demonstrated during your academic journey, which



**Prof. Justus M Munyoki.**

has finally made you be enlisted for graduation today. This is indeed a great and memorable day, not just for you, but for your parents, guardians, and ourselves as well. It opens a new chapter in your lives, with many new challenges and opportunities. In line with the 44th Graduation theme:

*'Pilgrims of Hope: Consecrated to Transform Nations through Innovative Education'*, we are reminded that we are on a journey that is driven by hope. This is what the Catholic University has been preparing for, and we have a strong belief that as you go out, you are going to use the skills and knowledge that you have accumulated during your studies to positively transform society.

The Catholic University prepares students with a focus on values, knowing just too well that mere academic qualifications without strong moral and spiritual values is not enough. Our motto – *'Consecrate them in the truth'* – must continue to be your guiding principle at all times. Go out and be true disciples of truth, standing for the truth no matter the cost. You have been consecrated in the truth during your academic journey

at this University, and it is our hope that you will continue to practise that which you have learnt.

As you graduate, remember that a lot is expected of you, not just by your family, but by society at large. As you try to satisfy your family as well as societal expectations, always start by mapping your own journey and your own life expectations, by setting realistic and achievable goals in life. The world is increasingly becoming more and more competitive, and you have to find a niche for yourself within it. Technological advances have made the world a global village where distances in time and space have been reduced significantly. You should therefore look for opportunities not just locally, but also globally wherever they are.

May I once again wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

## Over 40 years of faith, excellence, and transformative service

The Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) proudly celebrates its 44th Graduation Ceremony, marking over 40 years of unwavering commitment to faith, excellence, and service to humanity. As a leading institution of higher learning, CUEA continues to transform lives across Africa by nurturing ethical, innovative, and service-driven leaders who embody the values of truth, integrity, and hope.

This year has been one of remarkable achievements across all facets of university life. In community service, CUEA emerged the overall winner in the tertiary and higher education category during the inaugural Road Safety Awards organised by the Automobile Association (AA) of Kenya. This recognition affirms the University's leadership in promoting road safety awareness through education and outreach programmes led by both staff and students at the Lang'ata and Gaba (Eldoret) campuses.

Beyond the classroom, CUEA continues to shine in sports and extracurricular excellence. The University's celebrated rugby team, the CUEA Monks, has upheld its winning tradition in national tournaments, while the netball and soccer teams have also brought home championship titles. CUEA's prowess extends to intellectual sports too, with its chess team recording stellar performances in regional and East African tournaments.

The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) Auditorium has equally positioned CUEA as a hub of academic dialogue and continental collaboration, hosting international conferences and high-profile events such as the Africa Business Expo 2025 and several major gatherings by the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB). Reflecting on these milestones, Dr Gitonga Muriithi, Head of Communications, Marketing and Student Recruitment, reaffirmed CUEA's holistic approach to education. "At CUEA, we go beyond academics. We empower students through community engagement, sports, and innovation, ensuring they graduate as agents of change in society."

Dr Muriithi also emphasised the institution's focus on student welfare, mental health, and sustainability, aligning with global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and reinforcing CUEA's role as a thought leader in ethical and values-based education.

As the University celebrates its 44th Graduation Ceremony, it remains steadfast in its mission to form conscientious leaders for Africa and the world, guided by the spirit of faith, truth, and service that has defined its over 40-year journey of excellence and transformation.

## Graduation as a Pilgrimage of Purpose

**MESSAGE FROM THE DVC RESEARCH, INNOVATION, ADVANCEMENT & DEVELOPMENT**

Today, our hearts are full of gratitude, our souls are dancing for joy, our faces are beaming with smiles, as we adorn our bodies with the best and step out to celebrate the 44th Graduation Ceremony of The Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA).

This ceremony has come at a time when CUEA has just instituted the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation, Advancement, and Development (DVC-RIAD) in a bold and visionary stride toward aligning higher education with both national and international aspirations. At the core of CUEA's mission is a commitment to excellence in research, teaching and community service, thus the creation of the DVC-RIAD completes the picture with respect to the mission of CUEA. This historic transformation signals a pivotal moment, not only for the University but for the broader African high-



**Prof. Damian M. Maingi.**

er education landscape. It reaffirms CUEA's deep-rooted commitment to its identity as an institution grounded not only in academic excellence, but in moral purpose and impactful societal contribution. Today, universities must become dynamic catalysts for ethical leadership, inclusive development, and sustainable social transformation through research and innovation. They must also link and partner with the industry and governments to advance, develop and contribute to society at large.

The establishment of the DVC-RIAD reflects a firm conviction that transformative education is inseparable from rigorous, relevant, and ethically guided research and innovation. It recognises that innovation when driven by moral clarity and empirical rigor, holds the power to reimagine communities, reshape institutions, and regenerate the soul of a nation. Through this new office, CUEA has restructured its research ecosystem to meet complex global and local realities, from rapid technological shifts and climate change, to governance challenges, health crises, educational reform, and interfaith dialogue.

As CUEA steps boldly into this new chapter, the DVC-RIAD stands as a beacon of possibility demonstrating what can be achieved when academic rigor intersects with moral vision. This office embodies the University's refusal to remain static amid change and asserts that education infused with faith, ethics, and action can indeed transform nations. In a world rife with division, misinformation, and despair, CUEA's *Pilgrimage of Hope* lights a path forward, inviting institutions,

scholars, and communities to walk together not only towards knowledge but towards wisdom, justice, and the renewal of the human spirit.

On this momentous occasion, the Office of the DVC-RIAD extends its warmest congratulations to the 2025 graduating class of CUEA. This day marks not only the culmination of your academic journey but also the beginning of a sacred pilgrimage – a journey defined by purpose, service, and the transformative power of hope. At CUEA, you have not simply acquired degrees; you have undergone an intellectual, moral, and spiritual transformation. You have been equipped with tools for critical thinking, inspired to pursue truth, and called to lead with compassion.

Graduation, in this light, is not an ending, but a powerful new beginning. It is a launching point for you to find meaning, purpose and fulfilment in life as researchers, innovators, educators, and change makers.

Go forth boldly, lead with conscience, research and innovate with empathy, and never forget that your education was entrusted to you for the sake of others.

Congratulations! May your pilgrimage be one of enduring impact.



CUEA Graduands at rehearsals.



**Congratulations to the Class of 2025**

## County News

# Relief for motorists as Sh100m set aside to upgrade road

BY STANLEY NGOTHO

Residents and motorists using the Kitengela–Old Namanga Road have a reason to smile after the Kenya Urban Roads Authority (Kura) allocated an additional Sh100 million for its rehabilitation.

The new funds will cover an extra two kilometres of the nine-kilometre bypass, which starts at Kitengela town, passes through residential areas, and connects to the Namanga Highway near the Masai Flowers farm. The road, long described by locals as a key economic lifeline, has been in a poor state for years.

In March 2024, Kura set aside Sh64 million to upgrade the first kilometre of the road to bitumen standard and rehabilitate the remaining stretch.

Later in the year, another allocation was made for a second kilometre.

The latest funding, released last week, will extend the tarmac section to Milimani Police Post.

“This is a positive gesture. We plead with the government to fund the remaining stretch. We have suffered for many years,” said resident Gerald Kimani. Kajjido East MP Kakuta Maimai welcomed the development, saying the project was long overdue and the re-

sult of sustained lobbying. “We have agreed with the contractor to engage local youths as casual labourers. Once completed, this road will spur economic activity and ease congestion along the Namanga Highway,” he said. The road, once part of the Namanga Highway in the 1970s and 1980s, was transferred from the Kenya National Highways Authority (Kenha) to the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (Kerra) after a re-routing. It now falls under Kura’s jurisdiction—a matter that has often frustrated residents seeking maintenance.

Locals say the bypass will help decongest Kitengela town and improve connectivity to nearby areas,

including Ongata Rongai. In addition, Kerra has earmarked the construction of two service lanes from Kitengela Bus Terminus to the Savannah Cement factory on both sides of the Namanga Highway to ease evening traffic jams.

Kenha has also allocated funds to build two pedestrian bridges—one near the Kitengela Police Station and another at the Rubis petrol station—to enhance safety in the busy township. “At least Kitengela is now enjoying the benefits of government attention. We will continue working with the administration for more development,” said the MP.

**Rising cases spark alarm** Mwenda’s death adds to a growing number of drowning incidents in Lamu in the recent past

# Tragedy strikes as teen drowns on trip to coast

For 18-year-old Boaz Mwenda, the trip to Lamu was meant to be a joyful reunion with family and a first glimpse of the beauty of the coast. Instead, it ended in heartbreak.

BY KALUME KAZUNGU

What began as a joyful visit to the Coast for 18-year-old Boaz Mwenda from Lare, Meru County, ended in tragedy when he drowned while swimming at Shella Beach in Lamu Island.

Mwenda, who had travelled 450 kilometres to visit his elder brother and cousins, was in Lamu for the first time and was due to return home the following week. But days later, he would indeed make the journey back—this time in a coffin.

On Sunday morning, Mwenda left his brother’s rented house in Langoni, Lamu Town, accompanied by three friends.

Initially bound for church, the group changed their plans and decided to go swimming at Shella Beach, a popular spot among locals and visitors. It was there that Mwenda’s life was tragically cut short after being swept away by strong tides.

What followed was a disturbing twist. Mwenda’s companions did not

## EXPLAINER

### Timeline of events

#### Sunday, October 19:

Boaz Mwenda, 18, leaves his brother’s house in Langoni, Lamu Town, with three friends. They abandon plans to attend church and go swimming at Shella Beach, where Mwenda is swept away by strong tides.

#### Monday, October 20:

Mwenda’s family grows anxious after he fails to return home. His friends remain silent about the incident.

#### Tuesday, October 21:

The three friends admit Mwenda drowned while swimming. Police arrest them for questioning and file a missing person’s report at Lamu Central Police Station.

#### Wednesday, October 22:

A multi-agency search team recovers Mwenda’s decomposing body near Takwa Ruins on Lamu Island.

#### Thursday, October 23:

The body is transferred to Malindi Sub-County Hospital for postmortem examination as the family prepares to transport it home to Meru.

immediately report his disappearance. For two days, they remained silent, even as his brother and neighbours began to raise alarm over his absence. On Tuesday, after intense questioning, the three friends revealed that Mwenda had drowned on Sunday while swimming.

They said they had panicked and did not know how to break the news. Police at Lamu Central Police Station arrested the trio to assist with in-



The boat carrying the body of Boaz Mwenda (inset) arrives at the King Fahd Hospital jetty on Wednesday. Boaz drowned while swimming at Kona ya Shella Beach last Sunday. PHOTOS | KALUME KAZUNGU | NATION

vestigations and filed a missing person’s report. A multi-agency search and rescue operation was launched, led by officers from the Kenya Coast Guard Service, Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA), Kenya Red Cross Society, and the Lamu County Disaster and Rescue Team, alongside local divers. After nearly two days of searching the Indian Ocean around Shella, Manda, Ras Kitau, and Takwa areas, the grim discovery was made. On Wednesday evening, Mwenda’s decomposing body was found floating near the Takwa Ruins.

Lamu County Search and Rescue Team leader Mohamed Musa confirmed the recovery. “We received a call from fishermen who had spotted a body near Takwa Ruins. Mwenda’s family members were present during the recovery and identified the body,” said Mr Musa.

The body was taken to the Mpeketoni Hospital morgue before being transferred to the Malindi Sub-County Hospital mortuary for a postmor-

tem scheduled for Thursday.

Mr Musa warned visitors against swimming in unmonitored areas known for strong tides, including Kona ya Shella, Ras Kitau, Kitangani, and Wiyoni.

“We will intensify patrols in these areas, but people must also take precautions. Avoid swimming in deep, turbulent waters,” he said.

Grieving relatives described Mwenda as a disciplined and cheerful young man. His cousin, Charles Kaberia, said the family was devastated.

“It’s painful that Mwenda will return to Meru in a coffin. We urge authorities to station officers on the beaches to monitor swimmers. Many drownings occur because of lax control,” said Mr Kaberia.

Another relative, Silas Kimathi, faulted Mwenda’s friends for failing to raise the alarm promptly.

“Had they reported immediately, there was a chance he could have been saved,” he said.

Jacob Muroki, spokesperson for the

Meru community in Lamu, called on the government to deploy dedicated search and rescue teams equipped with fast boats to respond swiftly to sea emergencies.

“Quick intervention can save lives. We are losing too many people to the sea,” he said.

Mwenda’s death adds to a growing number of drowning incidents in Lamu. Earlier this month, a Kenya Defence Forces soldier, 35-year-old Mohamed Bakari Athman, died after his fishing boat capsized in Mkokoni, Lamu East. His body was recovered from the Indian Ocean near the Mbelezoni-Kacha Channel.

A month earlier, two fishermen—a father and son—also perished when their vessel capsized in the Pezali area near Pate Island.

In April, three members of a church youth group from Hongwe in Mpeketoni drowned at Shella Beach during a retreat.

**It’s painful that Mwenda will return to Meru in a coffin. We urge authorities to station officers on the beaches to monitor swimmers. Many drownings occur because of lax control.**

Victim’s cousin, Mr Charles Kaberia



skazungu@ke.nationmedia.com



# CELEBRATING SILVER JUBILEE & LAUNCH OF UWS PLAZA



## Proud of UWS for attaining yet another big milestone

**MESSAGE BY HON. DR FCPA WYCLIFFE A. OPARANYA, EGH, CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF COOPERATIVES AND MSMEs DEVELOPMENT**

I am delighted to join fellow Co-operators in congratulating United Winners Deposit-Taking Sacco during its 25-year anniversary celebrations and the launch of UWS Plaza. The cooperative fraternity takes pride in United Winners Sacco's journey of transforming the lives of its members through innovative and member-focused financial solutions.

The Sacco was originally registered in 2001 as Umoja Wendani Savings and Credit Society, to cater for financial needs of PCEA Umoja Wendani fraternity in Nairobi. With time and in line with its strategic objectives, it rebranded and is now identified with a name that reflects the Sacco's dedication to unity and success. Its focus is now to position themselves as the most reliable cooper-



ative financial partner.

The Sacco continues to grow as evidenced by a very huge membership base and an ever growing clientele. Through prudent mobilisation of resources and good custom-

er care, United Winners Sacco is the go-to place for quality financial services.

In 2024, the Sacco launched a Front Office Service Activity (FOSA) after obtaining a license from the Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority (SASRA). This enabled it to offer deposit-taking business, where members and customers can access efficient and affordable credit to meet their financial needs.

My Ministry remains committed to providing an enabling environment through policy, legal, and institutional reforms to advance the co-operative movement. The leadership of the cooperative movement is implored to continue promoting innovative, commercially oriented, and efficient financial and other member services to enhance our visibility at local, regional, and international levels.

Together, we will ultimately drive the co-operative movement forward for a prosperous future.

**Long live United Winners DT Sacco. Long live the Cooperative Movement.**



### Way to go, UWS!

**MESSAGE BY H.E HON SAKAIA ARTHUR JOHNSON, CBS, EGH, GOVERNOR, NAIROBI COUNTY**

It is an honour to join you in celebrating the United Winners Deposit Taking Sacco (UWS) Silver Jubilee.

Over the past 25 years, UWS has shown how faith and focused community action can become a vital stabilising force in Nairobi. Your success goes beyond financial growth. It is reflected in the countless lives uplifted through access to credit, savings and investment opportunities, including supporting education, business expansion and home ownership, among others. You have empowered many Nairobi families.

By becoming a Deposit-Taking Sacco, you have reinforced your commitment to integrity, prudence, and compliance, ensuring members' savings remain safe while strengthening our County's financial ecosystem.

The new UWS Plaza stands as a bold symbol of what co-operative unity can achieve in urban development. Nairobi County is proud to partner with UWS in advancing inclusive prosperity.

Congratulations on this remarkable milestone. May the next 25 years bring even greater impact.

**CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE BY PATRICK KILEMI, CBS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR CO-OPERATIVES**

I take this opportunity to congratulate United Winners Sacco Society during this auspicious occasion of their 25 years anniversary and launching of the UWS Plaza.

Since inception 25 years ago, the Society has been on a positive growth path in the provision of a wide range of financial products and services to its members, for socio-economic empowerment. It has carved a special niche in providing focused financial services and solutions to a wide range of clients, who include individuals, small and medium enterprises, corporate organisations, learning institutions, religious organisations, and oth-




er service providers across various economic sectors. Today's event marks yet another significant milestone for the Society, and this is highly commendable.

Success in the co-operative movement and for Saccos in particular continues to hinge on the innovativeness of the leadership, responsiveness to new and emerging customer profiles, and their willingness to modernise their business models by embracing international best practices. This enables them to remain relevant and also be able to retain their market share in the highly competitive financial sector.


As we witness this celebration by United Winners Sacco, I call upon the leadership of the co-operative movement to continue being guided by prudent business and commercial practices that have a reflection on member's aspirations geared towards growth and development.

**Congratulations United Winners. Ushirika ni usitawi**



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## Congratulations


United Winners DT Sacco on your 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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# CELEBRATING SILVER JUBILEE & LAUNCH OF UWS PLAZA



**MESSAGE BY DAVID OBONYO, MBS, COMMISSIONER FOR CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT**



Join the co-operative fraternity to congratulate United Winners Sacco as they mark 25 years of existence and as they officially launch UWS Plaza. This is indeed a significant milestone for the Sacco.

The Sacco has recorded tremendous growth since its inception in 2001 as Umoja Wendani Sacco. Later it rebranded and opened its common bond to include members from other institutions. The Sacco has now obtained a license from Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority (SASRA) to undertake Front Office Service Activity (FOSA). By graduating to a regulatory regime, the Sacco's credibility was enhanced.

United Winners has effectively achieved diversification and financial inclusion by targeting members in the formal and informal sector. It has continued to economically empower its members by providing affordable credit and other value-added financial services. This resonates well with the Government Policy of promoting financial inclusion, outreach and access for the majority of the population to participate in the formal market economy.

As a co-operative family, we wish United Winners Sacco continued prosperity in its growth journey.

**Hongera!**

## United Winners Sacco thrives: 'Built by Members, Powered by Unity'

**MESSAGE BY MR KENNETH NGOTHO, CHAIRMAN, UNITED WINNERS DT SACCO**

I am filled with immense gratitude as we celebrate 25 years of United Winners DT Sacco (UWS). This momentous Silver Jubilee is a journey defined not just by time, but by faith, unity, and shared destiny. From a modest idea in the year 2000 shared by our 11 founding members, UWS has grown into a highly trusted financial institution that continues to uplift lives, empower families, and strengthen communities across Kenya and beyond.

We started as Umoja Wendani Sacco, and we have remained true to our original co-operative purpose – people coming together to achieve what they could not accomplish alone. UWS has always been, and continues to be, a community of shared progress. Through our affordable credit, savings, and investment solutions, countless members have secured their children's education, built homes, expanded businesses, and realised dreams that once seemed out of reach. We celebrate the success stories of every one of you today.

Our transition into a deposit-taking Sacco marked a monumental leap of faith, demonstrating our commitment to serve you better through convenient deposits, in-



**We started as Umoja Wendani Sacco, and we have remained true to our original co-operative purpose – people coming together to achieve what they could not accomplish alone. UWS has always been, and continues to be, a community of shared progress.**



confidence in our future.

Our success is rooted in loyalty. We deeply appreciate the steadfast support of our members, the diligence of our dedicated staff, and the strategic support of partners like the Co-operative Bank of Kenya, Family Bank and the CIC Group, who have walked this transformative journey with us.

**Our Vision: Securing the Future of the Co-operative Spirit**

Looking ahead, we are focused on securing the longevity of the co-operative spirit itself. While we embrace digital tools, our ultimate goal is inclusion and legacy. We are investing heavily to ensure every member, regardless of location, en-

joys reliable and secure access to our services, bringing the Sacco to your fingertips.

Our future vision is clear and ambitious, built on the promise of lasting stability:

- **Deepen Financial Inclusion:** Our mission is to reach every Kenyan. We will achieve this through branch expansion and strategic agency banking, ensuring accessible, member-focused financial solutions are available nationwide.
- **Empower the Next Generation:** We commit to nurturing financial literacy among youth and children, ensuring that our powerful co-operative culture is sustained for generations to come.
- **Grow Wealth, Secure Health:** We will move beyond basic banking to integrate wealth management and health insurance tools, focusing on the total well-being of the member and their family.
- **Sustain the Legacy:** We embrace environmental stewardship and ethical investments, guaranteeing that every step forward builds a more responsible, sustainable, and equitable society.

As we enter this new era, United Winners DT Sacco remains steadfast in its original mission: To transform lives, grow wealth, and build unity through shared prosperity. The next 25 years will be defined by integrity, inclusion, and the enduring power of partnership – a future "Built by Members, Powered by Unity."

**Newfortis Sacco**  
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**Congratulations**  
United Winners Sacco on Your Remarkable Journey!

As you mark this milestone, Co-operative Bank celebrates your commitment to empowering members and driving growth.

Together with Co-op Consultancy, our advisory and training arm, we remain dedicated to supporting your Sacco with innovative financial solutions, strategic insights, and capacity-building programs helping you achieve even greater success in the years ahead.

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# CELEBRATING SILVER JUBILEE & LAUNCH OF UWS PLAZA



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# Of faith, finance and a bold future outlook

**MESSAGE BY CPA PERIS NDERITU, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, UNITED WINNERS DT SACCO**

This year, we take a moment to honour the past while boldly stepping into the future. Our journey, from a handful of founders to a vibrant, deposit-taking Sacco, is a testament to unity and collective effort, all built on a foundation of trust and consistent growth. For those who joined us early, you know the value of commitment, and we proudly carry that spirit forward. It's incredible to see that despite the competitive landscape, our membership has grown consistently over the last five years. This is a powerful reflection of your trust and our core promise to empower you with accessible and affordable financial solutions.

We understand the need to stay relevant, which is why we went through a rebranding, and now the relocation to our modern new headquarters. But beneath the fresh corporate identity, our commitment to our values remains the same: Integrity, professionalism, transparency, accountability, customer focus, and teamwork.

We have fortified our systems, focusing on prudent management to ensure financial strength in our institutional capital and deposits. We maintain a quality loan book through careful, responsible risk management – the kind of caution that ensures your hard-earned savings are safe.

### Innovation and Securing the Next Generation

We know that a new generation relies



on speed and convenience. Our ongoing digital transformation is about automating services and enhancing our ICT infrastructure, not to replace personal service, but to deliver it faster and smarter through digital access while rigorously protecting your information. For our older members, rest assured that technology is here to support you, and our staff are here to guide you. We understand that trust is paramount, and safeguarding your data is our highest priority.

Crucially, our vision of the future extends to your families. The greatest gift you can give the next generation is not wealth itself, but the wisdom and discipline to build and manage it. We are focused on banking our children with tailored solutions designed to give them a great start in the world of wealth. By establishing a financial foundation early, we continue to teach them the profound value of compound interest and financial discipline, ensuring your legacy is passed on through financially savvy, independent children and grandchildren.

We are also expanding our horizons with the upcoming UWS Insurance Agency to offer broader protection

We maintain a quality loan book through careful, responsible risk management – the kind of caution that ensures your hard-earned savings are safe.



for your families and assets. Initiatives like the UWS Business Club are platforms designed to help our entrepreneurial members connect and grow, carrying forward the spirit of community support that founded us.

### Honouring Our People: The Heart of UWS

To our former staff who laboured with limited resources and immense passion in those formative years, we value you immensely. Your toil laid the groundwork. To our current workforce, your drive for innovation and operational excellence is what defines our present. We are committed to attracting, developing, and retaining a skilled, motivated team to own and steward this vision.

Our 25-year history is a story of shared sacrifice, shared success. As we move forward, we recommit to empowering you and building a truly sustainable future. The ship is strong, and with your continued trust, UWS will sail on to even greater horizons.

Thank you for making UWS your financial partner. Here's to the next 25 years!



One Time Interiors limited, a partner with UWS Sacco would love to congratulate you on this big milestone.

You are an amazing organization with strong core beliefs that have made you reach this milestone. May God go before you and make your path straight.

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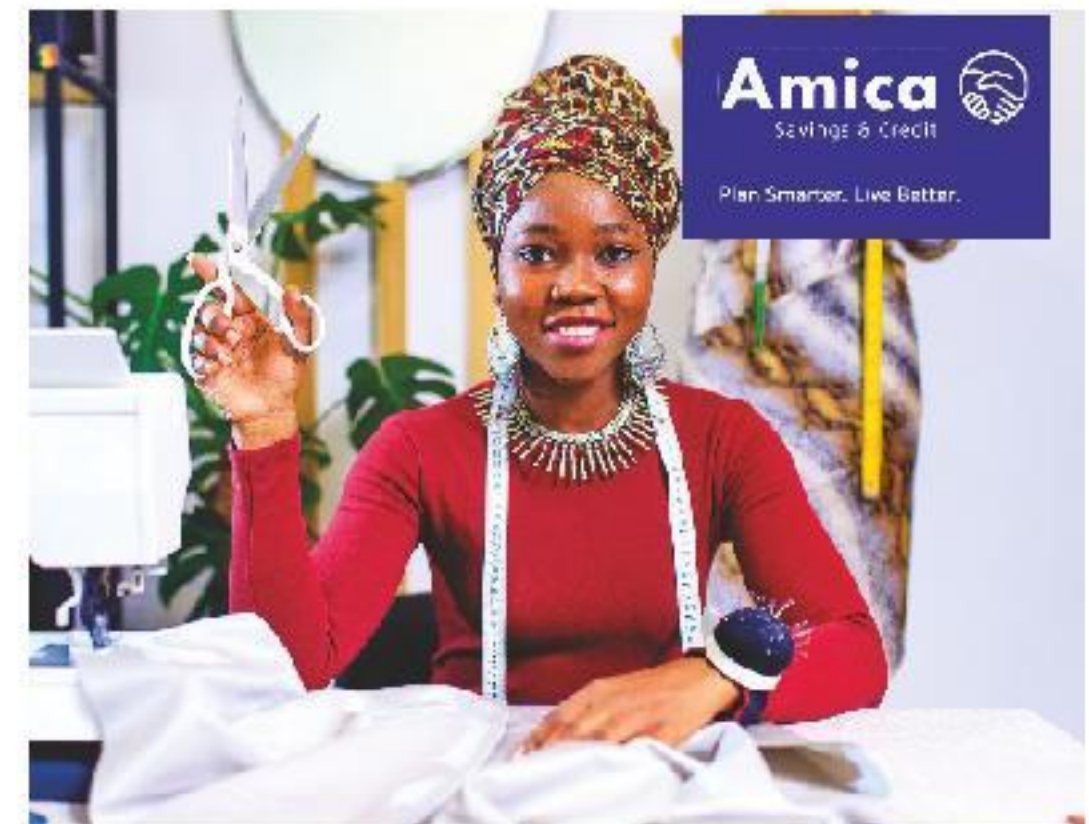
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*Congratulations...!*

UWS on their 25th anniversary and the launch of the UWS plaza. We appreciate being part of your growth

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UNITED WINNERS DT SACCO Growing Together

UNITED WINNERS DT SACCO Growing Together

**CELEBRATING SILVER JUBILEE & LAUNCH OF UWS PLAZA**

CELEBRATING 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary



United Winners DT Sacco founders: (Standing from left to right) Christopher Thiarara, Geoffrey Wanjema, Jermano Waihenya, Julius Muchiri, and Francis Nyamu. (Sitting from left to right) Francis Njenga, Douglas Waweru (First Chairman), Dishon Maina, and Geoffrey Mukono (Second Chairman).



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*Congratulations*

United Winners DT Sacco Ltd on 25 years of excellence and service to members.

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CELEBRATING 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary UNITED WINNERS DT SACCO Growing Together

# Congratulations!

**UNITED WINNERS DT SACCO**

Family Bank Ltd. proudly extends our warmest congratulations to United Winners DT Sacco Ltd. on achieving the incredible milestone of their 25th Anniversary Celebration and the momentous Official Launch of UWS Plaza!

We celebrate your quarter century marked by unwavering dedication, trusted financial partnership, and a profound commitment to serving various communities and members. The launch of UWS Plaza is a clear testament to your resilience and vision for the future.

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# International

## Uganda road crash renews safety concerns

KAMPALA, THURSDAY

After a multi-vehicle crash killed 46 people and injured many others in western Uganda, new concerns have emerged over road safety in the country.

Police said the collision occurred in Kiryandongo district on the Kampala-Gulu highway on Wednesday around 12.15am.

It involved two passenger buses, a lorry and a car. Preliminary investigations indicate that the bus heading to Gulu from Kampala attempted to overtake the lorry and collided head-on with the bus speeding from the opposite direction, triggering a chain reaction that caused multiple vehicles to overturn.

Police initially reported 63 deaths but revised the figure to 46 after confirming that several unconscious victims had been mistakenly counted among the dead.

President Yoweri Museveni expressed condolences in a message posted on X, urging motorists to be cautious.

"I have learnt with sadness about the tragic accident that occurred this morning... claiming many lives. I extend my condolences to the bereaved families and wish the injured a quick recovery," he said.

The president said every bereaved family would get US\$5 million (about \$1,440), while the injured would receive US\$1 million.

The Ministry of Works and Transport said it dispatched a team to support police investigations and urged motorists to avoid dangerous overtaking. It promised a comprehensive report on the crash.

The Uganda Red Cross Society said it deployed additional ambulances to take the injured to hospital for specialised care, with several referred to Mulago National Referral Hospital in Kampala.

"While much of the attention has focused on the number of lives lost, it is equally important to spotlight the survivors who are critically injured and still fighting for their lives," the society said. (Xinhua)

## King Charles, Queen Camilla make first visit to the Holy See



Britain's King Charles and Queen Camilla are welcomed by Monsignor Leonardo Sapienza at the courtyard of San Damaso, the Vatican, on October 23 as part of their first state visit to the Holy See since Pope Leo XIV's election. PHOTO: REUTERS

**Escalation** The war, which began in 2023, has claimed thousands of lives

## Drones hit Khartoum, forcing airport closure

Paramilitary RSF claims responsibility for the attacks on Sudanese capital

KHARTOUM, THURSDAY

**D**rones struck Khartoum Airport and other areas of the Sudanese capital for the second consecutive day on Wednesday, marking an escalation in attacks on the city.

"Six suicide drones targeted the vicinity of Khartoum Airport, but ground defences shot them down," a military source said, adding that the raid did not cause significant damage.

In Omdurman, north of Khartoum, a resident said drones struck a military base in Al-Salha early on Wednesday.

"At six in the morning, we heard the sound of drones, followed by explosions and flames rising near the military base," the witness said.

The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) claimed responsibility for Wednesday's attack on Khartoum.

"Our forces carried out a pre-

cise special operation in which drones targeted sites and gatherings inside the perimeter of the General Command in Khartoum. The focused strike neutralised a number of officers at the headquarters," RSF Field Commander Othman Jaafar posted on social media platform X.

Sudan's Civil Aviation Authority announced on Monday that Khartoum Airport would resume operations on Wednesday, but the latest developments forced a delay.

### First flight

In a statement on its official Facebook page, Khartoum International Airport had described the resumption of flights as "an important step in the recovery of aviation, paving the way for the gradual return of air traffic in the coming period".

Badr Airlines, a local carrier, cancelled what was to be the first flight from the airport since the civil war erupted in April 2023.

The company also announced the suspension of scheduled flights on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Its online booking system

showed reservations would reopen on October 26.

Said a source at Khartoum International Airport: "The continued targeting of the airport for a second consecutive day prompted a thorough security review, which led to the decision to suspend flight operations until further notice."

The RSF has intensified drone attacks on military positions and vital infrastructure in areas controlled by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) in recent

weeks.

The airport was among the first sites attacked by the RSF when war erupted on April 15, 2023, and sustained heavy damage during the early phases of the conflict.

Authorities and the military have since worked to rehabilitate the airport after the army regained full control of Khartoum state in May.

Port Sudan Airport in the country's east remains the only operational hub for international flights, while some airports elsewhere continue to operate on a limited scale.

Meanwhile, areas in Sinnar and Blue Nile states also came under drone attacks on Tuesday night, resulting in explosions and a widespread power outage across much of central and southern Sudan.

Sources said the explosions occurred near Sennar dam and its hydropower station, while witnesses reported a blast near Al-Roseires dam, causing power outages that lasted several hours.

The civil war has claimed tens of thousands of lives and displaced millions, plunging the country into a humanitarian crisis. (Xinhua)

Our forces carried out a precise special operation in which drones targeted sites and gatherings inside the perimeter of the General Command in Khartoum

Othman Jaafar, RSF Field Commander



## BRIEFLY

### DODOMA

#### Politician arrested days to elections

A senior official of Tanzania's main opposition party has been arrested amid a crackdown on dissenting voices ahead of next week's general election. Chadema deputy chairman John Heche was detained while attempting to attend the treason trial of party leader Tundu Lissu. Chadema said the government plans to arrest senior party leaders and detain them until after the October 29 elections. The party added that Heche was apprehended as he arrived at the High Court on Wednesday. (BBC)

### TUNIS

#### 40 migrants die off Tunisia coast

At least 40 migrants, including children, have died after their boat sank off the coast of Tunisia, in one of the deadliest maritime disasters in the region this year, authorities say. The boat sank off the Mediterranean port of Mahdia in central Tunisia while carrying about 70 migrants. All the people on board were from sub-Saharan Africa, an official added, without providing details. This is the latest disaster to hit migrants trying to cross the Mediterranean from Africa to Europe. More than 210,000 people tried to cross central Mediterranean in 2023, according to the United Nations. (BBC)

### KYIV

#### Zelenskiy hails Russia sanctions

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy hailed "very important" new US and EU energy sanctions on Russia on Thursday, but said more pressure is needed on Moscow to secure a ceasefire in the war. The US unveiled sanctions against Russia's major oil firms on Wednesday, a day after plans for a summit between President Donald Trump and Russian leader Vladimir Putin fell apart. EU countries adopted a 19th package of sanctions, including a ban on Russian liquefied natural gas imports. "This is very important," Zelenskiy said of the sanctions in comments to reporters in Brussels, where he later met EU leaders. (Reuters)

## Escapade Venturesome team heads down south to size up stunning, colossal coastline sand dunes

BY ABDIWAHID BIRIQ

Any trip by a large group (11 members in our case) would require meticulous planning, including designing an itinerary, securing reliable transport and accommodation. Kiligrit's trip to Namibia was no exception.

Now, there are no direct flights from Nairobi to Windhoek, Namibia's capital. The world gets there through either Addis Ababa in Ethiopia or Johannesburg in South Africa. Kenya Airways flies to Johannesburg, thus requiring a connection from there to Namibia through another carrier. After much logistical considerations, we opted for the Addis Ababa route, which meant using one carrier – Ethiopian Airlines.

Even then, it meant that we fly over Kenya both ways, prolonging our journey. Imagine you are in Kisumu and you want to go to Kampala by road, but to get there, the bus has to first go to Nairobi to pick other passengers, and back through Kisumu on your way to Kampala.

We checked in and proceeded to the immigration desk where usually, your passport would be scanned, then your photo taken. You are then asked to place your index finger on the fingerprint reader. After this, you place four of the right hand fingers, and then the thumb. The process is repeated for the left hand. Finally, you are asked to hold your two thumbs together and place them on the fingerprint reader. During this procedure, it takes several attempts before the lights turn green on the scanner to confirm that the fingerprint has been read. You are exhausted by the time your passport is stamped "Exit" and handed back to you by the immigration officer. This ritual shall await you on your return.

At 15 minutes to 4am, we left Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) for Addis Bole International Airport, our transit point.

Ethiopia, clearly determined to become the logistical hub of Africa, is now building a new four-runway mega airport, aiming to be the largest in Africa, at a cost of \$10 billion. It is planned to handle 110 million passengers and four million tons of cargo annually. It will replace Bole. Rwanda and Somalia are also building modern airports.

At Bole airport, the Flight Information Display System shows arrivals and departures to almost every major city in Africa. The fact that Addis Ababa and Ethiopian Airlines connect Africa is not contested in the continent, a testimony of a country determined to play in a different league. Undoubtedly, Kenya's advantage over Ethiopia are enormous and they include location, language and being host to many UN bodies, affirming its place as a notable diplomatic capital of the world.

Nonetheless, after much debate amongst ourselves, we concluded that Kenya should build a new ultra-modern airport to assert Nairobi as the logistical hub for Africa.

### The windy corner

It was mid-afternoon when we landed at Hosea Kutako International Airport, named after Namibia's principal architect of its struggle against colonial rule. About 45km later, we were within Windhoek, a city with an estimated population of less than half a million. Namibia is ranked as the second least densely populated country in the



Kiligrit climbing Big Daddy dune. KILIGRIT

# Kiligrit goes to Namibia, a land of deserts and many surprises!

Namibia is a country of vast but largely uninhabited deserts. On the face of it, deserts don't have much going for them. But this is not the case.

world after Mongolia.

Unlike Kenyans, Namibians do not wear their religion on their sleeves. It is actually hard to find a church or a mosque. Matter of fact, we did not come across any billboard by some 'prophets' promising miracles such as making the disabled to walk again. And Namibia is one of the least corrupt countries in Africa!

On the way to our hotel, we visited the Independence Memorial Museum and the harrowing memorial to the Germany's genocide of the Nama and Herero peoples. We turned down lunch and headed for our hotel, Movenpick.

This visit rekindled past memory of Col (Rtd) Hussein Ahmed Farah's early days in Namibia. In 1990, at the dawn of Namibia's independence, Col Farah landed a Kenya Air Force plane at Eros Airport, a small city facility. Within few minutes, sneering Europeans gathered to watch the Kenyan entourage disembark, their agitation betrayed by their clenched jaws. They further felt knifed when Gen Opande took a ceremonial salute from an Italian contingent, and was hosted by then Lord Mayor of Windhoek. Many locals gathered at the fence on the outside, watching the scene gleefully.

Col (Rtd) Farah would later take off, quickly gain height and then come very low over the Europeans, forcing them to dive onto the ground. This delivered a message to those in the inside of the airport that their time was up, and those in the outside that their time had arrived. Col (Rtd) Farah had stayed

at Movenpick hotel.

The next morning, we left Windhoek to begin our 10-day tour of Namibia in two purposively built land cruisers. We marvelled at roads that were sleep-inducing, runway-straight, to the distant horizon and beyond as if designed to land a jumbo jet. It actually could in an emergency. On either side of the road were never-ending fences that stood out as a reminder that the Europeans had divided a better part of the country amongst themselves.

### Wading into a desert of sea

Namibia is a country of vast but largely uninhabited deserts. On the face of it, deserts don't have much going for them. But this is not the case. The country is famous for its other-worldly scenery, ethereal starry skies, a stunning coastline, colossal dunes and in-

credible wildlife.

The best place of all is Sossusvlei. This place boasts of the tallest and most photographed dunes in the world. Here, it was like walking into a gallery that displays the Almighty God's artistic creations. It was certainly the most surreal landscape we had ever seen.

At dawn on the following day, we joined a long queue of vehicles at Serium Gate waiting for registration and the opening of the park gate. Once cleared, we drove into the park as the sun announced itself to the earthly dwellers. As we drove across the Namib desert, we watched the colourful spectacle of hot-air balloons lifting from behind the hills one after the other, as an aircraft appeared above them, creating a field of aesthetics of joys.

We raced across the over 30,000 square-kilometre Namib Sand Sea

on a lone road that stretches like 60-mile pier into the sea of sand, and in between towering dunes that seem to stand to attention either side of the road – creating one of the world's most insistently memorable natural landscapes.

We went past Dune 45 and Big Mama, and headed for Big Daddy, to witness the dunes display a palette of colours from burnt orange to deep red, a display of a mastery show not found anywhere else. In the stillness of a foggy morning, it felt like the Red Sea parting in front of us.

At the end of the tarmac road, a river of deep sand begun. From here, the road gets really rough and sandy and in some places, it is hard to even tell which part is the road and which part is just more sand. Driving through this part requires high level of skill. It is in this section that we came upon a young French couple stuck in the sand. Their car was so deep in the soft sand that even with all our best efforts, we failed to dislodge it. It had to be towed.

One of our drivers went behind the wheel, while the other towed it out. Once their car was on a less challenging section, it was handed back to them. The couple were elated. The relief on their faces was there for all to see. With a bundle of dollars in her hand, the lady unsurely asked if she could give us some money as a token of thank you. We waved her away and wished them a safe journey.



Photo of a team captivated by the landscape. KILIGRIT

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

**Escapade** Venturesome team heads down south to size up stunning, colossal coastline sand dunes

# 'We started plodding up, slipping and slidding'

## FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE

Once at its base, we left our cars in a large lot among many cars to climb the Big Daddy, which at 325 metres, dwarfs all the other dunes. Climbing dunes is the done thing here, perhaps for the view, perhaps because conquering the sandy peaks scores a point against a landscape that monotonously insists on underlining man's insignificance. We did for all the above and to earn the ultimate bragging rights.

We momentarily stood to admire the giant dune. The red sand appeared incredibly vivid at that time of the day. It had a blanket of intact grooves shaped by wind, and its edge was perfectly smooth. The rising sun gave one side a fiery red glow, while the other sat entirely in the shadows.

We started plodding up, slipping and sliding, and despoiling the perfect ridgeline. Our feet would sink into the loose sand. The excitement got better of Hussein Unshur and Abdikadir Speaker, who ran ahead of the team. Soon they stood staring at the distance, surprised by how challenging Big Daddy was. In essence, every step upward would only move one slightly as the foot slid down, diminishing any progress. Soon, we all spread out along a never-ending dune edge that kept pointing upwards. I looked back feeling guilty of leaving traces on this perfect specimen of natural piece of art.

An hour later, we reached a crowded summit to stare at the ocean of dunes below, as the strangely hypnotic effect of this most photogenic of deserts, the profound tranquillity of its expansive wilderness, and faraway wonder overpowered our senses. But the thing is that these days everyone wants a taste of isolation, so the middle of nowhere can get very crowded. Though there are literally hundreds of dunes around here, all the tour parties converge on the same two – Dune 45 and Big Daddy. Under the perfect blue of the cloudless sky, it felt like we had driven to the end of the earth.

## Dead valley

At the foot of this giant dune lies Deadvlei, which offers a hauntingly beautiful scene. It features spaced out fossilised remains of ancient trees, their branches looking like the wands of skeletal wizards turned to stone by the wicked witch of the desert. It looks like what the name says, but it is arranged in a way that would shame even the most creative artist. Most intriguingly, the dead, leafless trees are still there, with blackened branches because of being starved of water for over 900 years since River Tsauchab changed course. The scene of a white floor with dead black ghostly looking trees surrounded with the red walls of Big Daddy and clear blue sky above, is sure to give you undoubtedly one iconic picture of Namibia.

As they say, if you up, you must go down. Mohamud went first and ran down Big Daddy into the Deadvlei. We watched as his figure became smaller and smaller on the sandy slope. We then appreciated how high we were. Notably, it is easy to lose a sense of scale on the world of giant dunes.

The rest of the team then followed, some running, some rolling on the sand, and others attempting to walk. I



The author feels like he has been transported to another planet, at Deadvlei.

ran down barefoot, and stopped midway to lie on the sand and feel its softness. I looked back to watch Col Farah, HM, Elmi and Col Abdulbari, sing their way down together. Ahmed Jibril remained at the top to take pictures. Ali Daud was already in the pan trying to get a scientific explanation for the dead valley.

## From the Namib Sand Sea to the Atlantic Ocean

After breakfast, we left our camp for the Atlantic Coast on a gravel but generously wide road. They call it "African massage" – to describe what you will experience when the gravel road beneath your wheels becomes so corrugated it rattles both man and machine. Head lights are kept on, to be seen through the dust.

We drove past mountains that could have been slushed into half during the Gondwana, with the other half drifting away to form what is now South America.

By this stage, we were becoming attuned to the desert – yellow grasses, orange sand, pink mountains – all muting to mauves and greys as the shadows shorten. Then we came upon billboards announcing the line of latitude at 23.5 degrees south of the Equator, that is otherwise known as the Tropic of Capricorn. We joined two busloads of Italian tourists out to live their Out of Africa fantasies, to record the moment. We could as well have been the first human beings on Mars.

Notably, cars are few and far between on this road, but when they do come, they trail huge plumes of dust, which momentarily blind you as they speed past.

Everyone seems to be in a hurry. In this desolate and forbidding land, the urge to escape the hostile environment is natural. For one long section, we are on a plain so flat and empty that the horizon is perfectly hori-



At the Tropic of Capricorn



A stunning photo of where the Namib Desert meets the Atlantic Ocean.



Killgirit visiting Twyfelfontein's ancient rock engravings, Damaraland.

zontal in every direction. The desert seems empty, but as we were to discover, that was not the case. We almost ran over an ostrich that stood up at the last moment and stubbornly challenged our vehicle to a 100-metre race.

After five hours of hard driving through endless grit and rock, the gravel road turned to tarmac. A sheet of blue ocean hummed through the sea fog, with the ghostly outlines of container ships suspended in it. Here, desert and sea meet, with nothing in between.

After an overnight at Swakopmund, we were bused to Walvis Bay Waterfront for a three-hour boat ride to watch whales, seals, pelicans and other sea birds. By the time they were done with the safety briefing, I was shivering. The freezing cold comes straight off the Antarctica, so the sea is bitterly cold. On return to dry land, we headed for Sandwich Harbour.

## Where the desert meets the ocean

The precarious 60km 4x4 drive along the beach to Sandwich Harbour, lying south of Walvis Bay, proved more enchanting than we anticipated. Here, some of the world's highest sand dunes run straight into the Atlantic Ocean,

creating breath-taking sceneries, unique landscapes and a picturesque lagoon.

The sand tracks' varying consistencies and closeness to the water made driving an adventure in itself. At times, the path narrowed to less than a metre on each side of our vehicle, leaving us sandwiched between towering sand dunes on one side and incoming ocean waves on the other. This required impeccable timing, to pass some points, before the wave returns. At some sections, fog moves in and the path disappears. The driver would stop to wait for the fog to lift. In between the sound of the on-coming waves, Speaker would sneeringly remind me of the importance of learning how to swim.

Fortunately, aside from a few tense moments, we managed to capture an unforgettable experience. Then we stopped at a spot where the dunes and the ocean had some distance between them, for lunch. We watched a line of vehicles struggle through the mud. Some members headed into the ocean while the others went up on all four to climb the near vertical dunes, and made it to the top to marvel at the site where the desert meets the sea.

We drove further out, left the track

by the ocean, and found ourselves among sandy dunes. Up and down and over, our drivers enjoyed showing their sand driving skills, accelerating dramatically as we neared the edge of the last dune before the ocean, and would turn sharply to avoid flying into the water several hundred metres below. Here 300m dunes drop into the sea at the same angle as a cliff would. We watched the other car slide down a near impossible drop, disappear from view, before coming out on the next dune. I tried not to scream but gave out a sound only heard on summit night on Mount Kilimanjaro.

We stopped at a spot that no other scenery in the world could match. There was only blue and yellow in sight – perfect yellow, with nothing else on the horizon. Above was the clear blue sky, and below it, the waters of the Atlantic Ocean. The scenery came together as though painted by a master. I felt overpowered, not only by the geomorphology and the visual drama, but in realising the beauty of the Almighty God's creation. You cannot get enough of this sight. As the poet Rumi once said, "All through eternity, beauty unveils God's exquisite form in the solitude of nothingness."

We ended our 10-day tour of Namibia with a visit to old rock engravings at Twyfelfontein; Damaraland; the Himba people with their traditional ochre-covered skin and intricate hairstyles; and Namibia's premier national park, Etosha, which is undoubtedly one of the most incredible destinations on the planet, more particularly for people with passion for large concentrations of wildlife around water sources.

## Namibia's premier national park

At Etosha, we watched animals of all sizes drink in an orderly manner – a herd of zebras, a family of ostriches, a tower of giraffes, wildebeests, and a menagerie of desert antelope, all taking it in turns to use the waterhole, presumably following some long-agreed pecking order. All nervously withdrew, when two giant elephants lumbered over. A pride of nine lions laid lazily under a shade less than a kilometre away, waiting for sunset.

Allah commands people to "travel through the earth" to observe the natural world, understand God's creative power, and gain wisdom. We did as it was divinely ordained and learnt from reflecting on this experience.

**Abdiwahid Biriq (@ABiriq) is a law practitioner and a senior partner at Sagana, Biriq & Muganda Advocates LLP**



Wildlife at a watering hole.

# Business

# 10%

Income tax rate firms setting up as Two Rivers SEZ enjoy

## Two Rivers SEZ exempt from City Hall plan approvals

BY PATRICK ALUSHULA

The Two Rivers International Finance and Innovation Centre (Trifric) has been designated a project of strategic national importance, allowing it to bypass Nairobi County in seeking development approvals and instead obtain them directly from the national government.

The designation, announced by the State Department for Lands and Physical Planning under the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, effectively places the 64-acre Two Rivers Special Economic Zone (SEZ) under the direct supervision of the national planning authorities.

This means Trifric will no longer be required to seek development permissions, planning approvals, or lease extensions through Nairobi County — where the project is located — but will instead make applications straight to the Cabinet Secretary for Lands.

The SEZ offers several incentives to attract companies including exemption from stamp duty and a lower tax rate of 10 percent for the first 10 years on domestic income.

"This will translate to a faster approval of Trifric projects and processes, assuring our investors of timely delivery," said Brenda Mbathi, chief executive of Trifric in a press statement.

The move will save the project from the bureaucracies witnessed in many counties when seeking approvals for activities such as amending master plans, setting up new buildings, changing land use, lease renewals, renovations or any other physical development-related activities.

The decision follows an inspection of the Trifric SEZ, which confirmed that the project qualifies as one of strategic national importance under Section 69(4) of the Physical and Land Use Planning Act, 2019.

## Meru, Embu, Tharaka-Nithi governors join hands to fight waste



From left: Governors Isaac Mutuma (Meru), Cecily Mbarire (Embu) and Muthomi Njuki (Tharaka-Nithi) after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to form a special purpose vehicle, acronymed MET, that will jointly engage investors in establishing a waste management plant serving the three counties. The initiative aims to convert waste into income-generating resources.

PHOTO | POOL

## Energy Works follow three major spillages between 2017 and 2022

# KPC plans Kisumu-Sinendet pipeline overhaul over leaks

Stopping leakages crucial to stemming heavy losses and enhancing safety

BY SYLVIA KATHONI

The Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) has kicked off preparations for the overhaul of defective parts of its 122-kilometre product line between Sinendet and Kisumu, which has been prone to leaks in recent years.

The pipeline, popularly known as Line 6, has suffered at least three major product spillages between 2017 and 2022, resulting in major financial losses for the company and exposing humans and the environment to safety risks.

New disclosures by KPC show that the pipeline will be fitted with new safety valves and pressure transmitters as part of a strategy to ensure safety and efficiency.

"The purpose of this contract is the supply of material and replacement of defective mainline valves on Line 6- oil pipeline," KPC said in a tender call for the overhaul of the 10-inch oil pipeline.

In March 2022, there was a major burst on Line 6 in Kisumu's Kanyamedha and Obunga, leading to the spillage of thousands of litres of products. In 2017, the line was breached in a suspected siphoning case around Muhoroni, leading to the spillage of products.

The planned safety overhaul on the Kisumu-Sinendet pipeline comes as the State agency moves to expand its storage facilities at its depots in Kisumu and Eldoret on the back of increased product demand by local and export customers.

### KEY FIGURE

**122km**  
Length of the pipeline

The expansion of the storage facilities in Kisumu and Eldoret is aimed at additional storage of petrol, technically called motor spirit premium (MSP), and kerosene-type fuel, also called jet A-1.

This will be in addition to constructing new dedicated facilities for a loading jetty at Kisumu and the modification of several other station pipework to enhance receipt of various oil products, a work plan by KPC shows.

Lot I of the work will be at Kisumu depot and will include the construction of a 10,000-cubic metre tank for MSP and another

similar capacity tank for jet A-1.

There will also be the construction of a mixed product 400-cubic metre tank, upgrading of the Jet A-1 inter-tank transfer facilities, and construction of dedicated Jetty loading facilities.

The second lot of work will be at Eldoret depot and will include the construction of a 10,000 cubic metres MSP tank, an 8,000 cubic metres Jet A-1 tank, and two mixed product tanks, each with a capacity of 400 cubic metres.

Additionally, KPC targets to increase the rate of loading of petroleum products to the Jetty from the current rate to 650 cubic metres per hour by installing a dedicated loading system that will be independent of the existing one.

The firm also wants to double the capacity of an existing 150 cubic metres per hour Jet A-1 inter-tank transfer system.

smusee@ke.nationmedia.com

### BRIEFLY

#### COURT

#### Firm dealt blow in Sh1.5bn fish complex dispute

A fish processing company has suffered a setback after the High Court dismissed its application to reinstate a case where it was challenging the termination of a Sh1.49billion contract for a proposed ultra-modern fish hub at Liwatoni in Mombasa. The case had been referred for arbitration in accordance with a clause under the conditions of the contract. Ceer Processing Ltd had sued the Principal Secretaries in the State departments for Blue Economy & Fisheries and Public Works over a contract dated March 29, 2022.

Philip Muyanga

#### MANUFACTURING

#### Soap maker eyes youth in product expansion plan

PZ Cussons East Africa is investing Sh150 million to introduce products targeting the younger generation, even as it allays fears of exiting the Kenyan market. The firm, which produces brands such as Imperial Leather and Carex, said it was working on introducing new fragrances, distribution channels, and package sizes in a bid to grow its sales among those aged below 35 years.

George Ngigi

#### INSURANCE

#### APA eyes firms, the poor with micro-covers

APA Microinsurance has rolled out micro-cover packages for sickness and weather-related disasters like floods, in a move aimed at the inclusion of low-income households and small businesses. The insurer has partnered with VisionFund Kenya and global climate Insurtech IBISA in rolling out two products — AfyaCash and ClimaCash+ — as it seeks to deepen insurance in the informal sector.

Patrick Alushula

## NAIROBI SECURITIES EXCHANGE

Last 12 Mths	Security	Prices	Shares
High	Low	Yesterday	Previous

## AGRICULTURAL

23.00	10.00	Eagads Ord 1.25	20.00	20.55	1.401
440.00	240.00	Kakuzi Plc Ord. 5.00	425.00	425.00	5
424.25	81.00	Kapchorua Tea Kenya Plc Ord	259.00	387.75	899
430.00	320.00	The Limuru Tea Co. Ord 20.00		376.75	
32.60	13.60	Sasini Ltd Ord 1.00	18.65	18.50	1.812
350.00	120.00	Williamson Tea Kenya Plc Ord 500	192.75	196.75	3.677

## AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES

56.75	18.50	Car & General (K) Ord 5.00	52.75	53.50	305
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## BANKING

23.75	10.00	ABSA Bank Ord 0.50	22.50	22.40	419,304
42.00	26.50	BK Group Ord 0.80	40.85	40.50	2,382
109.25	43.05	Diamond Trust Bank Ord 4.00	103.75	103.75	34,384
60.25	33.70	Equity Group Holdings Ord 0.50	59.50	60.00	44,018
11.30	2.80	HF Group Plc Ord 5.00	10.75	10.15	91,160
44.80	15.80	I&M Group Ord 1.00	43.35	42.30	69,607
58.25	19.00	KCB Group Ord 1.00	58.25	58.25	338,448
91.50	28.50	NCBA Group Ord 5.00	91.75	96.25	375,511
202.50	90.00	Stanbic Holdings Ord. 5.00	198.25	198.75	29,168
347.50	134.00	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ord. 5.00	295.00	290.00	18,729
21.55	10.10	The Co-op Bank of Kenya Ord 1.00	20.05	20.00	838,367

## COMMERCIAL & SERVICES

0.45	0.45	Deacons (East Africa) Ord 2.50		0.45	
1.88	0.59	Eveready EA Ord 1.00	1.29	1.28	17,963
10.00	2.70	Express Kenya Ord 5.00	7.02	6.90	25,879
4.66	4.66	Homeboyz Entertainment Plc Ord 0.50		4.66	
9.18	3.65	Kenya Airways Ord 1.00	3.81	3.85	128,572
3.46	2.00	Longhorn Publishers Ord 1.00	2.87	2.86	8,984
5.00	1.58	Nairobi Business Ventures Ord 1.00	1.60	1.62	23,103
22.40	10.60	Nation Media Group Plc Ord. 2.50	13.65	13.45	2,692
17.00	1.80	Sameer Africa Plc Ord. 5.00	13.30	13.75	7,846
10.80	4.50	Standard Group Ord 5.00	5.76	6.16	3,557
18.70	10.85	TPS Eastern Africa Ord 1.00	16.50	17.00	16,800
0.41	0.16	Uchumi Supermarket Ord 5.00	0.35	0.37	165,184
3.95	1.80	WPP ScanGroup PLC Ord. 1.00	2.89	2.90	12,592

## CONSTRUCTION & ALLIED

5.55	5.55	ARM Cement Ord 1.00		5.55	
84.00	21.30	Bamburi Cement Ltd Ord 5.00		54.00	
62.00	29.00	Crown Paints Kenya Ord 0.50	50.50	54.00	314
3.27	0.72	E. A. Cables Ord 0.50		1.71	
64.25	4.38	E.A. Portland Cement Ord 5.00	57.50	55.00	252

## ENERGY & PETROLEUM

10.40	1.94	KenGen Ord 2.50		9.18	
15.80	1.30	KP & LC Co Plc Ord. 250	13.45	13.70	1,576,203
4.20	4.00	KP & LC Plc 4% Pref. 20.00		4.51	
6.00	6.00	KP & LC Plc 7% Pref. 20.00		6.00	
39.90	14.55	TotalEnergies Marketing Kenya Ord 5.00	34.20	34.50	8,645
24.75	6.30	Umeme Ltd Ord 0.50	7.96	7.88	94,098

## INSURANCE

9.28	4.01	Britam Holdings Ord 0.10	8.52	8.56	168,849
5.50	1.60	CIC Insurance Group Ord. 1.00	4.54	4.50	280,400
332.00	142.00	Jubilee Holdings Ord 5.00	324.50	315.00	62,552
3.77	1.05	Kenya Re Insurance Ord 2.50	3.00	3.02	1,546,081
12.20	3.30	Liberty Kenya Holdings Ord 1.00	10.90	10.95	275,467
11.00	4.00	Sanlam Kenya Ord 5.00	9.00	9.00	43,342

## THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (No. 13 of 2019)

### COMPLETION OF PART DEVELOPMENT PLAN

1. PDP No. MIG/455/2025/07 - Existing Commercial Site in Awendo Town, Awendo Municipality

NOTICE is hereby given that the preparation of the above part development plan was completed.

The part development plan relates to land situated within Awendo Town, Awendo Sub County, and Migori County.

Copies of the part development plan as prepared has been deposited for public inspection at the office of the County Executive Committee Member for Lands, Housing, Physical Planning & Urban Development, County Director of Physical Planning & Urban Development office and County Physical Planning office, Migori.

The copies so deposited are available for inspection free of charge by all the persons interested between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. Monday to Friday.

Any interested person who wishes to make any representation in connection with or objection to the named part development plan may send such representations or objections in writing to be received by the County Executive Committee Member for Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development, P.O Box 195 - 40400, Suna - Migori; within sixty (60) days from the date of this publication and any such representation or objection shall state the grounds on which it is made.

HON. MERCY SAU MWAKIO

CECM, Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development

## INVESTMENT

16.50	7.60	Centum Investment Co Ord 0.50	14.85	14.05	181,436
1.83	0.27	Home Afrika Ltd Ord. 1.00	1.18	1.19	260,663
1,500	1,500	Kurwitu Ventures Ltd Ord. 100.00		1,500.00	
7.46	1.91	Olympia Capital Holdings Ltd Ord. 5.00	7.48	7.00	15,650
1.78	0.29	Trans-Century Plc Ord. 0.50		1.12	

## INVESTMENT SERVICES

16.50	5.22	Nairobi Securities Exchange. Ord 4.00	14.65	14.60	16,363
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## MANUFACTURING & ALLIED

140.00	65.00	B.O.C Kenya Group Co. Ord 5.00	132.25	133.25	1,716
495.00	325.00	British American Tobacco Kenya Ord 10.00	449.50	438.50	2,213
30.10	11.00	Carbacid Investments Ord 1.00	26.85	26.35	161,078
244.00	100.00	East African Breweries Ord 1.00	219.75	215.25	171,737
2.33	0.86	Flame Tree Group Holdings Ord 0.825	1.48	1.48	63,731
80.00	10.40	Africa Mega Agricorp Ord 5.00	65.00	65.00	7
0.27	0.27	Mumias Sugar Co. Ord 2.00		0.27	
31.00	12.00	Unga Group Co. Ord 5.00	22.85	23.35	21,344
8.56	5.90	Shri Krishana Overseas. Plc. 0.20	7.88	8.06	2,207

## TELECOMMUNICATION & TECHNOLOGY

31.00	11.50	Safaricom Ltd Ord. 0.05	28.10	27.95	8,419,327
20.00	20.00	Lap trust I-Reit Co. Ord 20 .00		20.00	
5800.00	1880.00	Absa New Gold ETF	5120.00	5045.00	683
844.00	761.00	Satrix MSCI World Feeder ETF	842.00	835.00	251

NSE ALL SHARE INDEX.01st Jan 2008 -100 Up 0.44pts - 178.80NSE 20-Up 21.82pts -3032 53 .01st sep 2015-4101.67 Up 4.19pts 4780.64 NSE 20-S 1-30 Aug 2023=1000 Up 10.30pts -1794.08 Up 0.43pts to close at 158.03

## COMMERCIAL BANK RATES

		Euro	\$	£	C\$	SF	IR	JY	ZR
ABC	buy	149.60	129.00	172.06	92.08	161.65	1.45	84.61	7.35
	sell	150.44	129.50	172.99	92.49	162.48	1.45	84.99	7.43
Absa	buy	149.61	129.10	172.09	92.16	161.73	1.46	84.65	7.39
	sell	150.10	129.30	172.61	92.43	162.39	1.47	84.90	7.41
Co-op	buy	147.02	128.50	169.84	90.29	159.63	1.43	83.72	6.46
	sell	152.19	129.50	174.23	94.01	164.46	1.59	86.95	8.33
Equity	buy	149.64	129.00	172.09	92.19	161.80	-	84.53	7.45
	sell	150.13	129.40	172.67	92.49	162.59	-	84.80	7.48
NBK	buy	149.69	129.00	172.15	92.19	161.84	1.46	84.64	7.40
	sell	149.90	129.40	172.37	92.36	162.17	1.47	84.79	7.42
KCB	buy	149.70	129.03	172.19	92.20	161.91	1.47	85.00	7.45
	sell	150.18	129.43	172.75	92.52	162.50	1.47	85.00	7.48
NCBA	buy	149.65	128.90	172.45	92.05	161.95	1.45	84.90	7.41
	sell	150.25	129.40	173.15	92.45	162.70	1.47	85.30	7.44
Stanbic	buy	149.45	128.95	171.84	92.15	161.85	1.45	84.58	7.40
	sell	149.99	129.40	172.44	92.47	162.42	1.47	84.89	7.50
Prime	buy	149.70	129.00	172.10	91.90	161.80	1.45	84.55	7.45
	sell	150.20	129.50	172.60	92.30	162.30	1.46	85.15	7.55

## CBK RATES

	Exchange Rate	Swiss Franc	162.1055
US Dollar	129.2396	100 Japanese Yen	85.0282
1 Sterling Pound	172.2298	1 Swedish Kroner	13.7271
1 Euro	149.7617	1 Norwegian Kroner	12.8742
South African Rand	7.4152	1 Danish Kroner	200.494
Ksh/USH	26.9656	1 Indian Rupee	1.4680
Ksh/TSH	19.3595	1 Hongkong Dollar	16.6392
Ksh/RWF	11.2410	1 Singapore Dollar	99.4795
Ksh/BIF	22.8118	1 Saudi Riyal	34.4600
1 UAE Dirham	35.1856	1 Chinese Yuan	18.1300
1 Canadian Dollar	92.8101	1 Australian Dollar	83.8371

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		Daily Yield	Annual Rate
African Alliance Kenya Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	7.14%	7.37%
African Alliance Kenya Enhanced Fund	Kenya Shilling	7.73%	8.01%
Britam Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.18%	10.71%
Britam Money Market Fund	USD	4.40%	4.50%
Absa Shilling MMF	Kenya Shilling	7.63%	7.90%
Absa Dollar MMF	USD	3.95%	4.02%
Gulfcap Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	11.55%	12.18%
Gulfcap Fixed Income Fund	Kenya Shilling	11.91%	12.59%
Gulfcap Shari'ah Fixed Income Fund	Kenya Shilling	6.93%	7.15%
Old Mutual Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.28%	10.78%
Old Mutual Dollar Money Market Fund	USD	5.27%	5.40%
Etica Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	11.45%	12.13%
Etica Money Market Fund	USD	5.48%	5.64%
CPF Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	9.24%	9.68%
Co-op Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	8.34%	8.89%
Co-op Bond Fund	Kenya Shilling	9.84%	10.34%
Arvoacap Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	9.57%	10.00%
Arvoacap Alimasi Fund	Kenya Shilling	1.37	1.37
Mayfair Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	8.05%	8.38%
Mayfair Fixed Income Fund	Kenya Shilling	15.91	15.91
Erwealth Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.62%	11.15%
CIC Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	8.22%	8.53%
CIC Wealth Fund	Kenya Shilling	7.00%	7.00%
CIC Dollar Fund	USD	4.92%	5.04%
Equity Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	4.92%	5.03%
Kuza Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.51%	11.08%
Kuza Money Market Fund	USD	5.79%	5.96%
Madison Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	9.74%	10.23%
Madison Fixed Income Fund	Kenya Shilling	11.01%	11.64%
Orient Kasha Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.44%	11.06%
Jubilee Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.01%	10.48%
Jubilee Money Market Fund	USD	5.01%	5.12%
Lofty-Corban Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	11.06	11.73%
Lofty-Corban Money Market Fund	USD	5.01%	5.13%
Lofty-Corban Bond Fund	Kenya Shilling	13.65	13.65
Cytonn Money Market	Kenya Shilling	11.83%	12.56%
NCBA Fixed Income Fund	Kenya Shilling	7.56%	

# Leisure

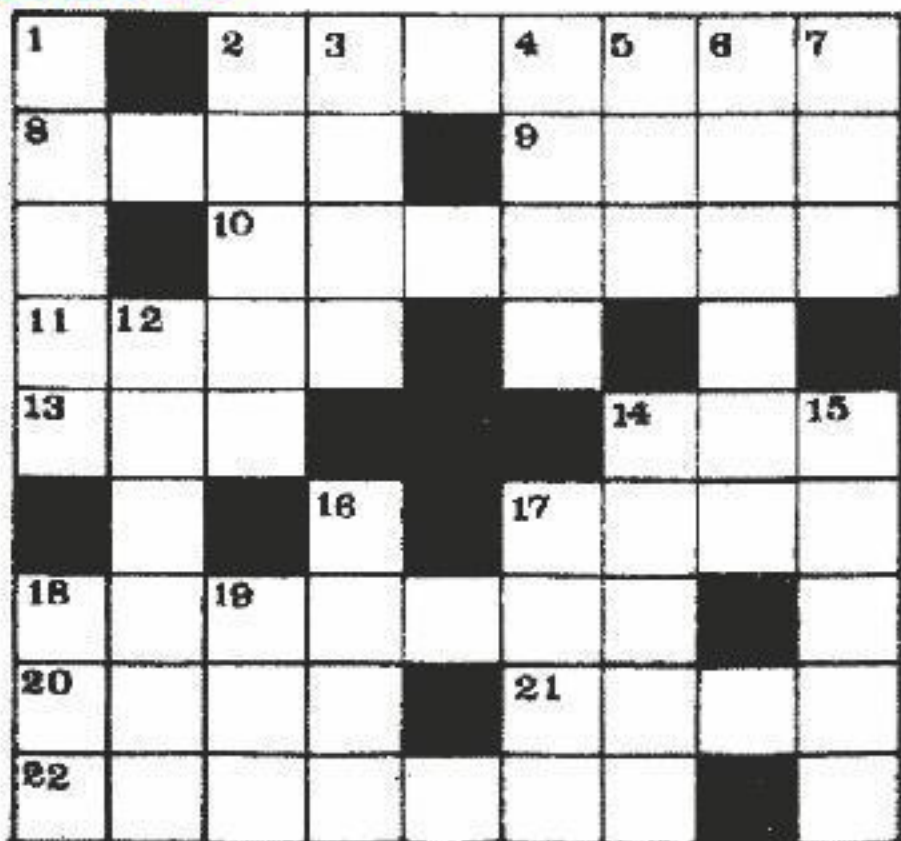
## SIMPLE CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- 2. Reddish-purple
- 8. A kind of soft, mild creamy cheese
- 9. A major industrial region in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany
- 10. Apprentice
- 11. An Asian root vegetable
- 13. Before, poetically
- 14. Title of respect for a male teacher
- 17. Polygonal recess in church
- 18. County number 47 in Kenya
- 20. 'Rest on one's oars'
- 21. The sea eagle
- 22. A thin board on which an artist lays and mixes colours

### DOWN

- 1. Of something severe or unpleasant, become less intense or widespread
- 2. A tall headdress worn by bishops
- 3. Of or relating to the air
- 4. One of the Great Lakes in North America



- 5. Sister in the Catholic Church
- 6. A proposition stated or put forward for consideration
- 7. 100 square meters
- 12. A fleet of warships
- 14. Church steeple
- 15. Insurgent
- 16. Gratis
- 17. Aid in wrongdoing
- 18. A sharp bite or pinch
- 19. Indisposed

### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

#### ACROSS:

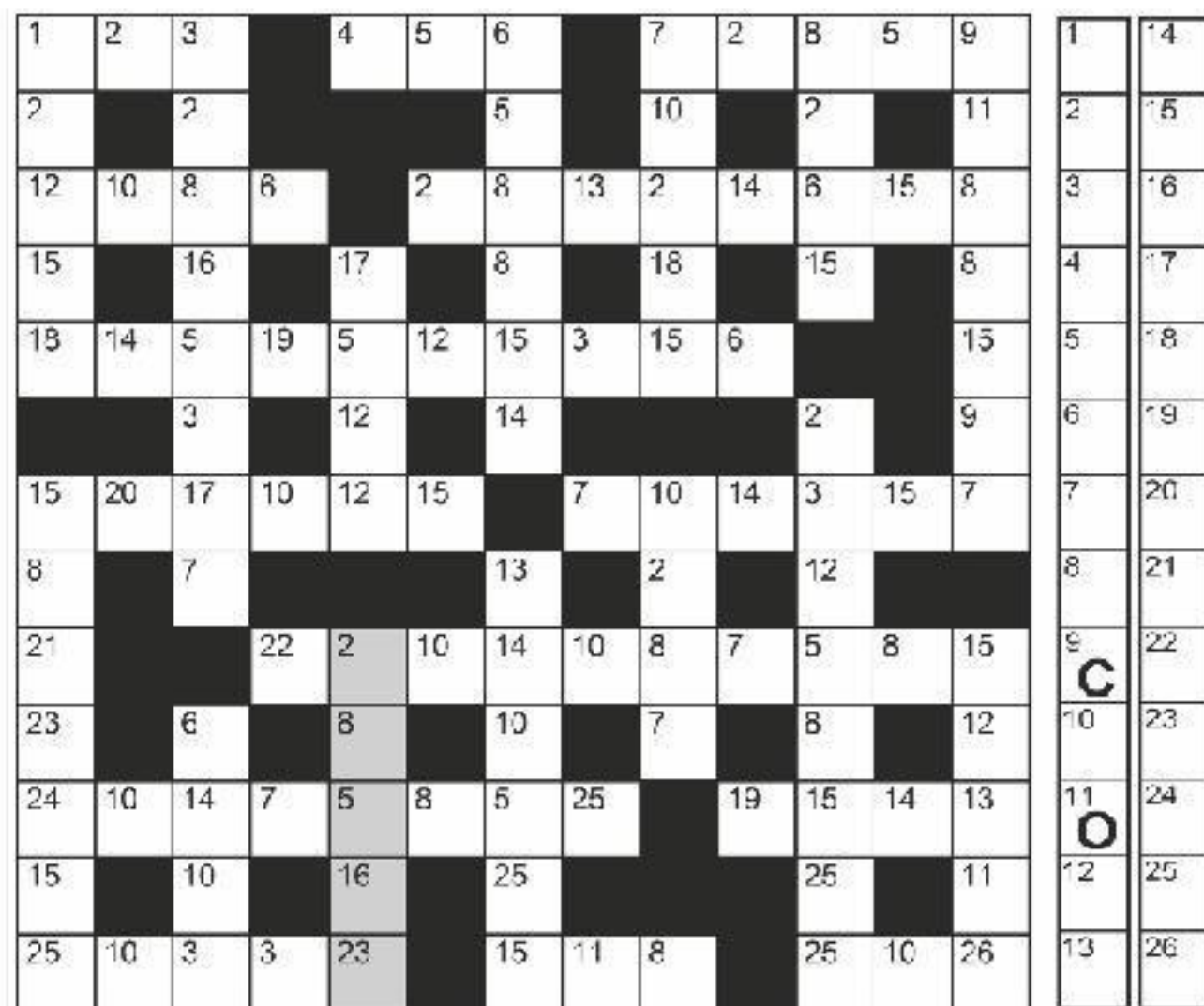
- 1 Gymkhana
- 7 OAU
- 8 Ire
- 10 Sport
- 12 Lam
- 13 Tana
- 14 Zebu
- 15 Two
- 16 Meme
- 18 Mace
- 21 Ole
- 22 Abbas
- 23 Ill
- 24 Lie
- 25 Athletes

#### DOWN:

- 1 Gust
- 2 Moon
- 3 Karate
- 4 Hut
- 5 Nile
- 6 Arabica
- 9 Emu
- 11 Patella
- 14 Zombie
- 16 Moi
- 17 Melt
- 19 Abet
- 20 ESES
- 22 All

## CODEWORD

Each number in our Codeword grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. For example, today 9 represents C when 9 appears. You have two letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the list of alphabetical letters as you identify them.



### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

1	B	2	Q	3	C	4	F	5	A	6	M	7	U	8	L	9	E	10	T	11	H	12	O	13	R
14	I	15	G	16	P	17	N	18	W	19	K	20	Y	21	D	22	Z	23	J	24	V	25	S	26	X

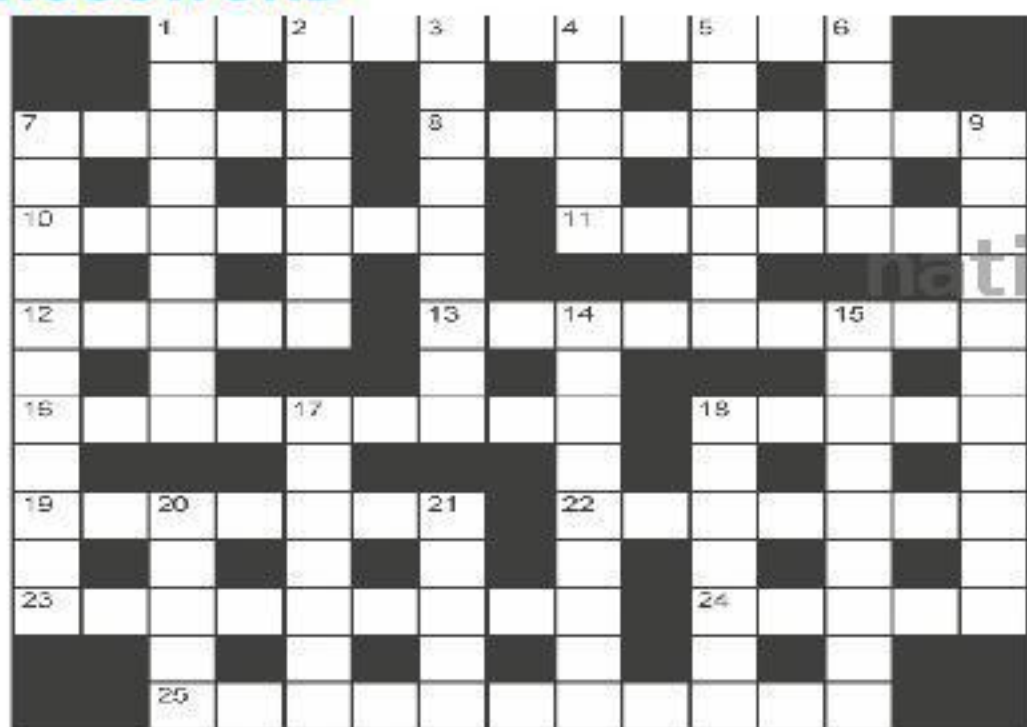
## COMPLEX CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- 1 Displays his tie in box in unusual fashion (11)
- 7 Swing to superstar backing (5)
- 8 One goes round making music (9)
- 10 Raunchy part of act after robe stripped off (7)
- 11 Anticipate MP Esther's gathering storm (7)
- 12 Conger eels - occasionally they're pretty ugly (5)
- 13 Shakira, for one, having no limo, cab to be arranged (9)
- 16 Spur joining United, starting with one million off the cuff (9)
- 18 Field takes an age to roll (5)
- 19 Convert filed behind popular dissenter (7)
- 22 Bulk-buy drink, adopting alternative to tick? (5,2)
- 23 For radio, cover Glasgow player's growth (9)
- 24 Coming from France, the little bird's first call (5)
- 25 They get a turn-on from A Place in the Sun (5,6)

### DOWN

- 1 Monitor what happens every autumn when pound goes west (9)



- 2 That won't start, lower and top gear having gone? (7)
- 3 Plant of old days state's boarded up (9)
- 4 Pack tons, going on advanced hill climbing (5)
- 5 Model parent - prefer this person taking the lead (7)
- 6 Heartbeat's rising unevenly obtaining soldier's equipment (5)
- 7 Maybe draw conclusion after getting shot (5,6)
- 9 Daughters observed doing this in dappled orchard object (6,5)
- 14 State in liaison with new assembly restricting university area (9)
- 15 Half of police performing tasks outside base? They go on foot (3,6)
- 17 Freak overdosed before dance (7)
- 18 Sainly type in Bible Belt, so patently bound heavenwards (7)
- 20 Five hundred deposited in broken safe loses colour (5)
- 21 Both sides briefly imbibing mellow drink (5)

### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

#### ACROSS

- 1 Ballpoint
- 6 Skip
- 10 Sprat
- 11 Video game
- 12 Abdomen
- 13 Library
- 14 Objector
- 16 Teeth
- 19 Ahead
- 21 Outburst
- 24 Bolivia
- 25 Methane
- 27 Engineers
- 28 Hyped
- 29 Hose
- 30 Underhand
- 31 Site

#### DOWN

- 1 Bossa Nova
- 2 Lured
- 3 Potomac
- 4 Inventor
- 5 Tiddy
- 7 Koala bear
- 8 Piety
- 9 Sorbet
- 15 Joe Bloggs
- 17 Hotheaded
- 18 Surmised
- 20 Divine
- 22 Butcher
- 23 Gateau
- 24 Beech
- 26 Alpha

## SUDOKU

### ENJOY THE GAME OF SUDOKU DAILY

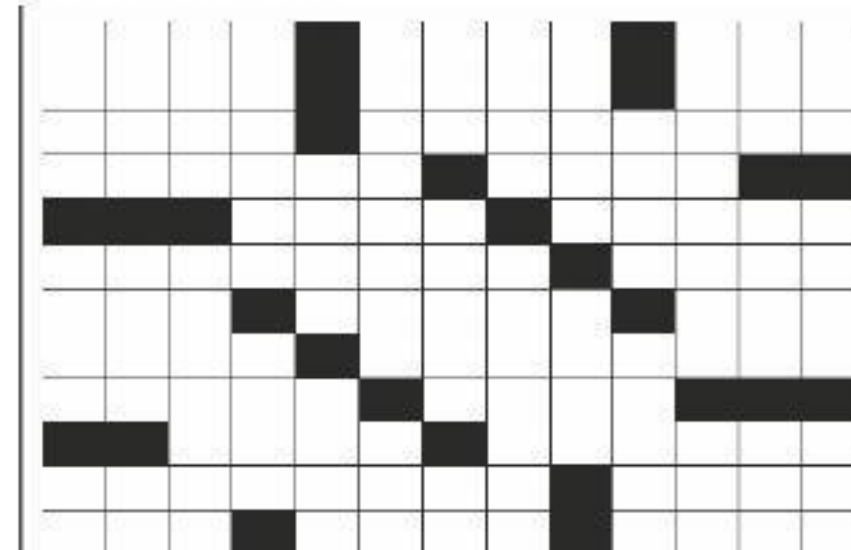
Use Numbers 1-9. Sudoku is played on a grid of 9 x 9 spaces. Don't Repeat Any Numbers in the upper left square (circled in blue), this square already has 7 out of the 9 spaces filled in. Don't Guess. Sudoku is a game of logic and reasoning, so you shouldn't have to guess. Use Process of elimination.



### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

9	7	2	1	6	8	5	3	4
5	1	8	3	9	4	7	6	2
4	6	3	2	7	5	9	8	1
1	9	7	4	3	6	2	5	8
3	5	6	8	2	9	4	1	7
8	2	4	5	1	7	3	9	6
2	4	5	6	8	3	1	7	9
7	8	1	9	5	2	6	4	3
6	3	9	7	4	1	8	2	5

## WORD FIT



Fit the words into the grid to create a finished crossword

- 3 LETTERS**  
AIL  
CAN  
EGG  
HIS  
ICE  
LOD  
NAG  
OIL  
PAW  
SIY  
TUT  
WAN
- 4 LETTERS**  
ALAS  
ALTO  
DEEP  
EARL  
FINN  
FRIG  
CWER  
HILL  
GQAD  
HUSL  
IDEA  
IRON  
LEAD
- 5 LETTERS**  
MALE  
MFIIT  
MINI  
NEAR  
NEAT  
NEIS  
CNUS  
PARE  
RILE  
ROO  
SAGE  
SANE  
SEWN  
SIDI  
STAY  
SWIG  
THAI  
TOTS  
YEWVS
- 6 LETTERS**  
INDICO  
NYMPHS  
RIMMLU  
TAKIIT
- 8 LETTERS**  
ARMURED  
AROUSING  
DRESS  
HORNIPIE  
INITIATE  
MOTHERLY  
NAHNIPE  
SCATAIRE

### Take 5

by Simon Shuker

Enter the letter given, then so ve.

**9 = D**  
**10 = Y**

Solution 1098

### WordWheel

No. 1099

Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or anticlockwise

Solution 1099: SEMINARY

### WORD-BUILDER

1099

How many words of three or more letters, including plurals, can you make from the five letters, using each letter only once? No foreign words or words beginning with a capital are allowed. There's at least one five-letter word.

**TODAY'S GOALS:**  
Good - 7 Excellent - 9 Amazing - 13

**SOLUTION 1098:** he, her, new, hoe, host, now, ore, owe, mo, me, mw, who, who's, wo, wire

### TRIO

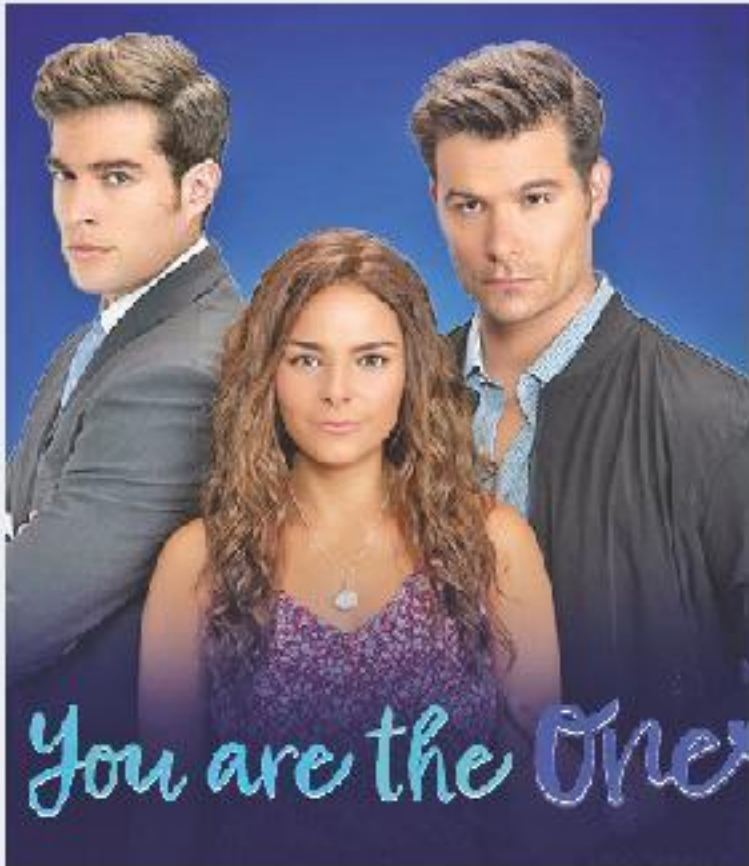
1293

Here four words can be completed using the same 11-letter sequence. Can you find it?

\_\_\_D  
W\_\_\_E  
\_\_\_LY  
BE\_\_\_D

**TRIO 1098 SOLUTION**  
**URD**

TREAT OF THE DAY



YOU ARE THE ONE

1:30 PM

YOU ARE THE ONE..The plot follows the love story of Martín Quesada, an affluent businessman, and Esperanza Muñoz, a struggling female boxer who becomes his personal assistant. During its broadcast, it was critically acclaimed, and won four Martín Fierro Awards and three Clarín Awards. IThe telenovela features Facundo Arana and Natalia Oreiro.

- 4:00am Aljazeera
- 5:00am Off The Hook
- 6:00am Fixing The Nation
- 10:00am Your World
- 12:00pm Flaqo
- 12:30pm Kilimo Almasi Agri Show
- 1:00pm NTV Adhuhuri
- 1:30pm You are The One - Rpt
- 2:30pm Kwetu Mixx
- 3:30pm Galaxy Kids
- 4:00pm Beatz and Buzz
- 6:30pm NTV Mashinani
- 7:00pm NTV Jioni
- 7:40pm The Sacco Way
- 8:00pm #TTTT
- 9:00pm NTV Weekend Edition
- 10:00pm The Trend
- 12:00am Aljazeera

NTV WEEKEND

EDITION 9:00PM

Join Michelle Ngele Odhiambo tonight and the rest for your definitive nightly roundup of top news stories, featuring incisive reports, exclusive interviews, and powerful investigative pieces that uncover the truth.

CINEMA GUIDE

NAIROBI

ANGA DIAMOND PLAZA

Black Phone 2 2D 10AM, 7.30PM,  
Chainsaw Man - The Movie: Reze Arc (Subbed) 3D 11AM, 3.20PM, 7.30PM  
One Battle After Another 2D 1.15PM, 9.40PM  
Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere 2D 5.15PM,  
Thamana 10.30AM, 12.20PM, 4.15PM, 7PM, 9.45PM

ANGA SKY CINEMA, PANARI CENTRE

Black Phone 2 2D 12.15PM, 5.10PM, 7.15PM  
Tron: Ares 3D 1PM, .515PM, 9.30PM  
Chainsaw Man - The Movie: Reze Arc (Subbed) 3D 10AM, 4.20PM, 8.20PM  
One Battle After Another 2D , 2.15PM,  
Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere 2D 2D 10AM, 9.30PM  
Tron: Ares 3D , 12PM, 2.10PM, 6.10PM, 10.10PM

WESTGATE CINEMA

WESTGATE MALL

HOLLYWOOD TITLES- PREMIUM SCREENINGS  
Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere SCREEN 2-2D (TBA) 6.50PM  
One Battle After Another SCREEN 2-2D (PG) 9.10PM  
Stitch Head SCREEN 1& 2-2D (TBA)

11.00AM & 2.00PM

Tron: Ares SCREEN 1 - 3D (PG) 11.10AM, 1.30PM & 3.50PM  
BOLLYWOOD TITLES: PREMIUM SCREENING

Thamma SCREEN 1& 2(16) 3.50PM, 6.10PM & 9.10PM  
Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat SCREEN 4-2D (PG) 11.15AM, 3.05PM, 6.20PM & 9.15PM  
HOLLYWOOD TITLES: VIP SCREENING

The Conjuring: Last Rites SCREEN 5 - 2D (16) 7.15PM

Tron: Ares SCREEN 6 - 2D (PG) 7.30PM  
Good Fortune SCREEN 5 & 6(16) 2.15PM & 9.50PM

Black Phone 2 SCREEN 5 (16) 9.50PM  
One Battle After Another SCREEN 5-2D (PG) 4.15PM

Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere SCREEN 6-2D (TBA) 3.10PM

Chainsaw Man-The Movie: Reze Arc SCREEN 6-3D(16) 11.25AM & 5.30PM  
BOLLYWOOD TITLES: VIP SCREENING

Thamma SCREEN 5(16) 11.05AM

CENTURY CINEMAX

TWO RIVERS MALL - LIMURU ROAD

SCREEN 1

Gabby's Doll House: 2D 12PM, 2PM, 4PM & 6PM  
The Dog (Kenyan Film) 2D 8PM & 10PM

SCREEN 2

One Battle After Another 1PM, 4PM, 7PM & 10PM

SCREEN 3  
Tron: Ares 3D 12PM, 2.30PM, 5PM, 7.30PM & 10PM

SCREEN 4  
Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere 2D 12PM, 2.30PM, 5PM, 7.30PM & 10PM

SCREEN 5  
Chainsaw Man-The Movie: Reze Arc 1PM, 3.30PM, 5.45PM, 8PM & 10PM

SCREEN 6  
Good Fortune 1PM, 3.15PM, 5.30PM, 7.45PM & 10PM

CENTURY CINEMAX GARDEN CITY

THIKA ROAD

Tron: Ares S 2D-12:00PM, 2:30PM, 7:30PM.

Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere 2D 12D-5:15PM & 10PM.

Good Fortune 1PM, 3:15PM, 5:30PM, 7:45 & 10PM.

Gabby's Doll House: :1:00PM, 3:30PM, 5:30PM

The Dog 2D 7:30PM & 10PM.

One Battle After Another 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 7:00PM & 10PM.

Chainsaw Man-The Movie: Reze Arc 12:45PM, 3PM & 7:45PM.

Tron: Ares 2D- 5:15PM & 10PM.

TELEVISION

TV47 TV

- 5:00 Morning Decree
- 5:30 TV47 Fitness
- 10:00 TV47 Matukio
- 2:00 Baze 47
- 3:00 Kids On The Block
- 4:00 TV47 News Now
- 4:15 Sports Life
- 4:30 Ubongo Kids - Rpt
- 5:00 Beat Plug
- 6:00 La Mujer De Judas
- 7:00 TV47 Wikendi
- 7:30 The 77 Percent
- 8:00 Eco Africa
- 8:30 Nothing But Thirty
- 9:00 This Friday With Betty Kyallo
- 10:10 Tribe 47
- 12:00 Beatplug Mix
- 2:00 Wild Kingdom
- 4:00 Morning Devotion

CITIZEN TV

- 5:00 Pambazuka
- 5:30 PE @ Home Show
- 6:00 Day Break
- 10:00 Sema Na Citizen
- 1:00 News
- 2:00 Mseto Africa
- 3:00 PE @ Home Show
- 4:00 News Briefs
- 4.30 Kali ni Kali
- 6:00 Kenya's Gold
- 7:00 Nipasha Wikendi 7:30 Ayana
- 8:00 Aurora's Quest
- 9:00 Friday Night
- 10:00 10 Over 10 11:00 Afrosinema
- 1:00 Friday Night Rpt
- 4:00 Pambazuka
- KTN TV
- 5:30 Command Your Morning
- 6:00the Situation Room
- 10:00 Zilizala Viiwanjani 11:00 Yanayojiri
- 1:00 Newsdesk
- 2:00 KTN Classics

- 3:00 Tupike 4:00 Mbiu 4:30 Kids
- 5:00 Baseline 6:00 Love In 40 Days
- 7:00 Dira Ya Wiki 8:00 Live Event
- 9:00 Friday Briefing
- 10:00 Football Slip 11:00 Kata Rhumba
- 1:00 Aljazeera

KBC TV

- 5:00 France 24 5.05 Maombi
- 5.30 Gear Up 6.00 CGTN
- 7.00 Kudzacha 10.00 Music
- 11.00 Dunda Dunda Live 12.30 Khutba
- 1.00 Lunchtime News 2.00 ECO Africa
- 2.30 Inside Government
- 3.00 Charging Currents
- 21.30 Ukumbi Wa Kiislamu
- 4.00 Kurunzi
- 4.30 Club 1 Extra 7.00 Darubin
- 17.30 Vioja Mahakamani
- 8.00 Artitude 8.30 Red Carpet
- 9.00 KBC Channel 1 News 10.30 Disco Funk 11.30 CGTN 12.00 Club 1
- 12.30 France 24

AQUARIUS | JAN 21 - FEB 19

You may discover your emotions are tempered today, as you want to turn inward, Aquarius Do what feels most natural for you. Don't feel bad about doing this

PISCES | FEB 20 - MAR 20

Your strength lies in your inner resources, Pisces. You will find that these resources have opened up within you this weekmf.

ARIES | MAR 21 - APR 20

Offer your services to others. Your generosity in spreading your knowledge will be rewarded. Things might be rather confusing at first, but once you start talking.

TAURUS | APR 21 - MAY 20

If you feel slighted today, Taurus, don't shut yourself off from the situation. It may seem like everyone has ganged up and turned against you..

GEMINI | MAY 21 - JUNE 21

You may wake up in a fog of confusion this morning for some reason. The good news is that the air is likely to clear as the day continues.

CANCER | JUN 22 - JULY 22

Here's a suggestion. If you get a strange vibe about a situation today, walk away... Your instincts will tell you if something is dangerous or not.

LEO | JULY 23 - AUG 22

It's time to take charge of your life. Don't rely on other people to sort out your problems. There may some anxiety that causes you to overreact to a situation that normally wouldn't faze you.

VIRGO | AUG 23 - SEP 23

It's time to show other people that you have backbone, Virgo. It could be that up until now very few people have noticed, since you're so flexible and adaptable to change.

LIBRA | SEP 24 - OCT 23

You may be anxious to get some new projects underway even though they aren't ready .You must first learn that patience is key.

SCORPIO | OCT 24 - NOV 22

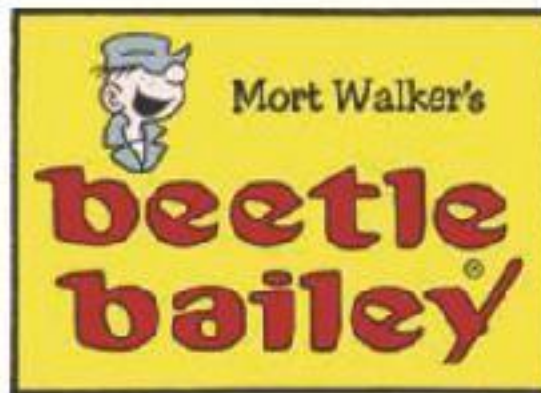
This a time for you to make peace with yourself and with others regarding workplace issues. If you aren't at work today, this is fine.

SAGITTARIUS | NOV 23 - DEC 21

You might not be in the mood to cooperate today, Sagittarius. Also will most likely want to work on projects alone at your own pace.

CAPRICORN | DEC 22 - JAN 20

Start today on the right foot by projecting a positive mood and healthy mindset, Capricorn. This is one of those days in which it matters the most.





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**HOST: BRIAN ASELI**

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THIS THURSDAY  
8:30PM**

DOWNLOAD THE NTV KENYA APP



**NAIROBI & UP COUNTRY**

**PERSONAL NOTICES**

**A109 Lost**

**LOSS** of Green card, KJD/KIPETO/2362

**LOSS** of title deed Dundori/Lanet Block 5/1769 (Kiamunyeki) Paul Gichovi Nyaga.

**LOSS** of title deed Nairobi/Block 99/111

**LOSS** of title deeds Kajiado/ Kaputei North 1468 & 1469

**LOSS** Of Title: Killifi/Gongoni/2526 Sidi Chula Koi

**LOSS** of title Number Karingani/ Mariani INO Erick Mawira Mutegi

**LOST** of Instrument Ngandori/Kiriani/226

**LOST** of title deed No Kajiado/Kitengela 42167

**LOST** T/Deed: Kanyamkago/Kawere 11/1814 of Michael Oluoch Muga

**LOST** Title Deed AthiRiver/AthiRiver Block 19/136 & 137(Denko) for Tahera Abdulmalik Aboo

**LOST** title deed Gaturi/Githimu/2253

**LOST** title deed no.IR 100937/13537/750 of Stephen Kirori Kanyi.

**LOST** title deed no.IR 100938/13537/751 of Stephen Kirori Kanyi.

**LOST** title deed no. IR 100939/13537/752 of Stephen Kirori Kanyi.

**LOST** title deed no. IR 100940/13537/753 of Stephen Kirori Kanyi.

**LOST** title deed no. IR 100942/13537/755 of Stephen Kirori Kanyi.

**LOST** Title Deed No Ngandori/Kirigi/2559 Gibson Gichora Githaiga

**LOST** Title Deed Othaya/ Ite-me-ini/ 1142 of Johana Gachuhi Ruchi

**LOST** Title Deed:Sunu East/Wasweta 1/6128 of Ndege Ocharo

**LOST** title Elburgon/Turi blk 3/33(High Field) Njenga Ndiru (deceased)

**LOST** title kakuzi ithanga gituamba blk 2/325 Simon Waweru Gathara

**LOST** title Kakuzi/Karimiri Block IV/47

**LOST** Title Kisumu/Kanyadwera/4037

**LOST** Title: Moi's Bridge/Ziwa block 8 (Chepterit)/114 of Ngetich Job Kipyego & Jane Kipngetich

**LOST** title Njoro/Njoro blk 5/866 (Ng'ondo) Michael Kihui Ng'ang'a

**LOST** Titles - Sunu West/Wasweta Two/9333 and 9331, both in the name of Caleb Owuor Ongele

**PERSONAL SERVICES**

**A167 Acupuncture**

**MEN'S** Vitality Clinic 0722-242243

**PAIN** Relief Clinic 0724-044383

**A230 Health**

**TEETH** replacement 0797664766

**A279 Notices**

**FORM PLUPA/DC/3 (r.3(3)(x))**  
**THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (NO. 13 OF 2019)**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**NOTIFICATION FOR EXTENSION OF USE**  
 The owners of Property TITLE NO. KWALE/WAA/1145 located off Kwale Kombani Road, in Kombani Tini, proposes to extend its agricultural use to include a GSM Base Transceiver station (BTS) subject to approval by County government of Kwale. Individuals, Institutions, Organizations etc. with objections or comments to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within 14 days of publication of this notice to:  
**CECM: Environment, Natural Resources, Lands & Urban Planning**  
 Kwale County government  
 P.O BOX 4-80403, Kwale  
 Name of registered Planner: Sitas Mbaabu Gichuru Reg. No. 0249

**FORM PLUPA/DC/3 (r.3(3)(x))**  
**THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (NO. 13 OF 2019)**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**NOTIFICATION FOR EXTENSION OF USE**  
 The owner(s) of Property PLOT NO. 151 JEZA BI INFORMAL SETTLEMENT SCHEME (Previously PLOT NO.84) located along Kwale-Golini Road, in Kwale, proposes to extend its residential use to include a GSM Base Transceiver station (BTS) subject to approval by County government of Kwale. Individuals, Institutions, Organizations etc. with objections or comments to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within 14 days of publication of this notice to:  
**CECM: Environment, Natural Resources, Lands & Urban Planning**  
 Kwale County government  
 P.O BOX 4-80403, Kwale  
 Name of registered Planner: Sitas Mbaabu Gichuru Reg. No. 0249

**A279 Notices**  
**FORM PLUPA/DC/3 (r.3(3)(x))**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Physical and Land Use Planning Act 2019**  
**EXTENSION OF USER**  
 The registered owner of parcel No. Cis-Mara/Maji Moto/4620 located along Narok - Sekenani Road, is proposing to extend its use from Agricultural to include light industry (compressed earth block yard) subject to approval by the County Government of Narok. Individuals, institutions etc with objections to the proposal should forward the same in writing within 14 days of this notice to:  
 The County Executive Committee Member, Lands, Housing, Physical Planning & Urban Development, Narok County Government, P. O Box 898-20500, Narok.  
 Name of registered planner: Newton G. Karuri, Reg. No. RPP 145

**FORM PLUPA/DC/3 (r.3(3)(x))**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Physical and Land Use Planning Act (No.13, 2019)**  
**CHANGE OF USER**  
 The registered owner of plot no. INDUKATHERI/670, situated in Kirinyaga County, is proposing to Change the use of land from Agricultural land use to Commercial cum Residential (Multi- dwelling units) land use subject to approval by County Government of Kirinyaga. Individuals, institutions or organizations with objections or comments should submit them in writing within 14 days of the date of this notice to:  
**The CECM-Land, Housing & Urban Development, Kirinyaga County Government**  
 P.O Box 260-10304, Kulus.  
 Name of Registered Planner: Onesimus Musyoki Reg No. 0229

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**IN THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE'S COURT AT NAIROBI**  
**CASE NO. E117 OF 2024**  
**STELLAR BUILDERS LIMITED.....PLAINTIFF**  
**VERSUS**  
**OCCIDENTAL INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED..DEFENDANT**  
**AND**  
**GEOFFREY NYORO IKUMBU.....1<sup>ST</sup> INTERESTED PARTY**  
**HUMPHREY WAUDI OKUKU T/A**  
**OKUKU AGENCIES AUCTIONEERS.....2<sup>ND</sup> INTERESTED PARTY**  
**SUBSTITUTED SERVICE BY ADVERTISEMENT**  
*(By Order of the Hon. Court issued on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2025)*  
 To: Geoffrey Nyoro Ikumbu  
 Humphrey Waudi Okuku T/A  
 Okuku Agencies Auctioneers  
**TAKE NOTICE** that a suit has been filed against you at the Chief Magistrate's Court at Nairobi in Civil Case No. E117 of 2024 in which you are named as the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Interested Parties respectively. Service of summons upon you has been ordered by the Honourable Court by means of this advertisement. Copies of the Summons and Plaint dated 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 may be obtained from the offices of M/s Mwamuye, Kimathi & Kimani Advocates Haven Court, Block B, B7, Along Waiyaki Way, Westlands, Opposite Lion Place, P.O. Box 46800-00100, Nairobi or at the Chief Magistrate's Court at Nairobi registry.  
**TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that this suit has been scheduled for mention for directions on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2025, unless you enter appearance before the said date, the suit shall proceed ex-parte your absence notwithstanding.  
**DATED AT NAIROBI THIS 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2025.**  
**MWAMUYE, KIMATHI & KIMANI ADVOCATES**  
**ADVOCATES FOR THE PLAINTIFF**  
**DRAWN BY:**  
 Mwamuye, Kimathi & Kimani Advocates  
 Haven Court, Block B, B7  
 Along Waiyaki Way, Westlands, Opposite Lion Place  
 (Ref: STE/001-016/01)  
 P.O. Box 46800-00100  
 Tel: 0796327708, 0717440834, Nairobi.  
 Email: info@mkk.co.ke

**Jubilee Party**  
 www.jubileeparty.co.ke  
 22/10/2025  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**CHANGE OF PARTY CONSTITUTION.**  
 Pursuant to Section 20 (1) (a) of the Political Parties Act, the Jubilee Party hereby notifies the general public of the change of its constitution.  
 For more information, kindly visit [www.jubileeparty.co.ke](http://www.jubileeparty.co.ke) or our headquarters at Daraja House, State House road, Nairobi.  
**For Jubilee Party.**  
**Hon. Jeremiah Kioni**  
**Secretary General.**  
 MBELE PAMOJA

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT 2019**  
**CHANGE OF USER**  
 The registered owner of parcel No. LOITOKTOK/KIMANA TIKONDO/2919 located in Kimana, off Kimana-Loitoktok Road is proposing to change the use of the property from Agricultural to Commercial (Tented Campsite) subject to approval by the County Government of Kajiado. Individuals, institutions and organizations with any objection/ comments are required to forward them in writing within fourteen (14) days from the date of this notice to:  
**CECM LANDS, PHYSICAL PLANNING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT**  
**COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KAJIADO**  
 P.O BOX 11-01100, KAJIADO

**A279 Notices**  
**THE Progressive Party of Kenya (PPOK)** hereby serves notice on the NDC. Details on [www.ppok.co.ke](http://www.ppok.co.ke)

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**IN THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE'S COURT AT BUNGOMA**  
**CIVIL CASE NO. E171 OF 2025**  
**MODE OF TRACK - FAST TRACK**  
**BONFACE KHALWALE FESTUS alias**  
**BONFACE KHALWALE WEKESA ..... PLAINTIFF**  
**=VERSUS=**  
**JANE WAMBUI IRUNGU ..... DEFENDANT**  
**SUBSTITUTED SERVICE**  
**PERSUANT TO COURT ORDER**  
**ISSUED ON 18/09/2025**  
**TAKE NOTICE** that the Defendant herein has 15 Days to both **Enter Appearance** and **file Defence** from the date of this Advertisement, and in default judgment will be entered against her. Summons to enter Appearance and Plaintiff can be obtained from the Court registry and also from **M/S OMUNDI BW'ONCHIRI ADVOCATES.**  
**DRAWN & FILED BY:**  
 Omundii Bw' Onchiri Advocates,  
 At Teachers Sacco Plaza,  
 3rd Floor, Room No. 125,  
 P.O. Box 1971-50200  
**BUNGOMA**  
 OUR REF: OJ CIVIL NO.3666.25  
 EMAIL: [omundibw'onchiri@gmail.com](mailto:omundibw'onchiri@gmail.com)  
 Cellphone No. 0727-536738 / 0799-736805

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**Death and Funeral Announcement**

It is with humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the passing on of Mr. Stanley Kemboi Kiptugen of Kapsiliot Farm, Moiben Location, Uasin Gishu County.

Until his demise, he was an employee of Eldoret Water and Sanitation Company Limited (Eldowas).

Son of the late Jackson Kiptugen Kipkore Chesurup, the late Mama Selina Jepkorir and Christine Kibor.

Huband of Betsy Chemweno and Elizabeth Nekesa Makokha. Father of Vivian, Sylvia, Gloria, Fred, Marion, Precious and Abidan.

Brother of Jane, Johana, Agnes, Grace, Oga, Stephen, Isaac, Edwin, Alex, Janet and Sharon.

The cortege leaves Iten mortuary today Friday 24th October, 2025 for an overnight vigil at his home in Kapsiliot Farm.

Burial service will be on Saturday 25th October, 2025 from 9am Kapsiliot Farm, Moiben Location, Uasin Gishu County.

*May God rest his soul in eternal peace.*  
**Revelation 21:4 "He will wipe every tear from their eyes"**



**Stanley Kemboi Kiptugen**

**Death and Funeral Announcement**

We are saddened to announce the demise of Mrs. Grace Chelangat Tamilgoi Bira of Roret village, Kisara location, Bureti Sub-County, Kericho County which occurred on 18th October 2025 after a short illness.

Grace was a beloved daughter of the late Kosigo Arap Yator and the late Tapnyolei Yator. She was the beloved wife of the late James Kipketer Arap Bira.

She was the devoted mother of the late Sarah Chepkwony, Professor Joseph Keter, Priscilla Ronoh, Elizabeth Bira, the late Kipkemoi, the late Kipkoech, the late Martha Chemutai, Esther Tum(USA), Lilly Korir, Loise Ngetich and Nehemiah Keter.

She was a dear sister of the late Musa Cheruiyot, the late Martha Kenungu, the late Kipkones Cheruiyot, the late Martha Bor, the late Mossin Cheruiyot and the late Oboc Chepkhichir.

She was a sister-in-law of the late Tom Bira,tha late Obot Philipu, the late Obot Kipterer, the late Elisha Bira, Mathew Bira the late Mary Cheruiyot(Obot Amos), the late Mary Cheruiyot(Oboc Esther), Sarah Cheruiyot (Oboc Kipgeno), the late Isaac Kenungu, the late Mathew Bor and the late Arap Chang'wony.

She was mother-in-law of Mary Keter, Janet Keter, the late Stanley Chepkwony, the late Joel Rono, Henry Tum, Howard Korir and Samuel Ng'etich.

Family, friends and relatives are meeting daily for prayers at their home in Roret from 2 pm.

The main fund raising will be held at home Roret on Tuesday 28th October 2025 from 2 pm. (Mpesa No. 0742 491 364 - Gilbert Korir).

The cortege will leave Siloam Funeral Home; Kericho on Friday 31st October 2025 at 9:00am for funeral service at African Inland Church (AIC) Roret. Burial will take place at home on Saturday 1st Nov 2025.

*I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2nd Timothy 4:7*

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**Grace Chelangat Tamilgoi Bira (1919-2025)**

### Death and Funeral Announcement

It is with deep sorrow and humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the demise of Anthony Kamau Mwangi (Daktari of Sirimon Pharmacy Nakuru).



**Anthony Kamau Mwangi**

The late Anthony Kamau Mwangi was a beloved third born son of the late Phillip King'ong'o Gachagwa and the late Bilha Wangu King'ong'o.

He was a brother of the late George Muchemi, Simon Muriithi, Peter Wachira, the late Ann Wangui, the late Lawrence Ndungu, John Kinyua and Francis Kiiru.

Anthony was a loving husband of Catherine Wanjira Kamau and a caring father of Evelyn Wangu, Caroline Muthoni and Philip Mwangi.

He was a loved son in-law of the late Miano Gikandi and the late Wangui Miano. He was the father in-law of Alvin Kimoita and Elizabeth Wambui.

Babu was a dedicated grandfather, of Angela Wanjira, Idris Ndirangu, Nina Njeri, Sifa Musanga, Eliana Muthoni, Neema Wanjira, and Zion Kamau.

He was a cherished uncle, cousin, nephew, brother in-law, friend and father figure to many. He will be greatly missed.

Daily funeral arrangements are being conducted at St Andrews Church Nairobi and at his Nanyuki home, Sirimon farm at Ngeniá Njerú.

The burial will be held on Tuesday 28/10/2025, at his Sirimon farm Nanyuki. The cortege leaves Cottage hospital Nanyuki at 8.00am.

**FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS WITH LOVE AND MEMORIES.**

### Death and Funeral Announcement

It is with profound sorrow that we announce the passing on of Dr. Foulata Tabitha Kwena of Emauko - Marachi Busia and Funyula on 14th October 2025 after a short illness.



**Dr. Foulata Tabitha Kwena 1971 - 2025**

She was the daughter of the late Anthony and Emily Aoko Kwena.

She was wife of the late Patrick M. Shilisia; Mother of Tara, the late Ray, the late Sam, and the late Sonia.

Sister of the late Jane, the late Solomon, Esther, Julius, Truphena and David Kwena, the late Mathew, Tito and the late Christine.

An aunt of many others.

The cortege will leave the Coptic hospital mortuary on 27th October, 2025 at 2.00pm for an overnight vigil at her Karen home.

Requiem Mass will be held on 28th October, 2025 at ACK St. Mathew's Hardy, Karen Nairobi. Burial will be at Langata Cemetery thereafter.

~ 2nd Timothy 4:7 ~

*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith".*

### Death and Funeral Announcement

It is with deep sorrow and humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the passing on of Mrs. Jane Wambui Macharia (Mama Njeri), beloved wife of Mr. W. J. Macharia Kamau of Tigoni, which occurred on Friday, 17th October 2025 after a period of short illness.



**Jane Wambui Macharia (Mama Njeri)**

She was a loving mother of Peninah Njeri Macharia, Njambi M. Macharia, Anne Wangui Macharia, Maureen Stella Macharia and Yvonne Carol Macharia. Doting grandmother of Sinaya Njeri. Daughter of the late Mr. Sospeter Mbugua Kiburi and Mary Njambi Mbugua of Gathiga, Kiambu County, and daughter-in-law of the late Mr. John Kamau Macharia and the late Peninah Njeri Kamau of Ngecha.

Sister of Njuguna, the late Wambui, Kinyua, Njoki, Wanjiku, Wanjiru and Nduta. Sister-in-law of Matere, Kimani, Wangui, Wanjiru and Njeri.

Family and friends are meeting daily for prayers and funeral arrangements at the family home in Tigoni (opposite Echuka signboard) from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The cortege leaves AAR Hospital Kiambu Rd on Wednesday, 29th October 2025 at 8:00 a.m. for a funeral service at ACK All Saints Church Limuru starting at 10:00 a.m., followed by interment at the family home in Tigoni.

*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." - 2 Timothy 4:7*

*May her soul rest in eternal peace.*

### Death Announcement



**Samwel Ogango Arum**

It is with deep sorrow and humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the passing of Samwel Ogango Arum, who died suddenly on Saturday, October 19th, due to cardiac arrest.

Beloved Son of Shadrack and Prisca Arum who hail from Kamgere, Rusinga, Homabay County. He was a cherished brother of Susan Jobando, John Arum and James Arum.

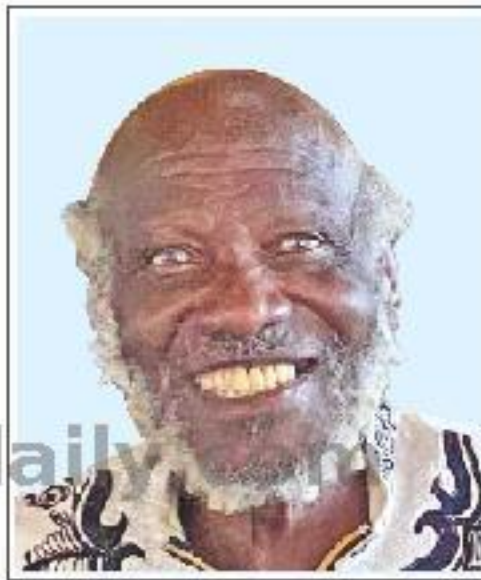
Brother-in-law of Peter Jobando and Janet Ngina Arum. Uncle of Loise, Cedric, Lwanda, Abigail, Alaine, Austin amongst others, cousin and nephew to many. His warm spirit and presence will be profoundly missed by his family and all who knew him.

Daily meetings are being held at his parents' home in Langata. Further details regarding the viewing, funeral service, and burial will be communicated in due course. There will be a Prayer Service and Harambee on 25th October at 2.00pm at the Mill Hill Hall, Chelsea Marina Court, Langata.

*"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die." (John 11:25-26, NIV)*

### Death and Funeral Announcement

It is with humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the passing of Professor Peter Anthony Martinus Nyongesa Misiko, which occurred on Friday, 17th October 2025, at St. Francis Community Hospital, Nairobi, after a short illness.



**Professor Peter Anthony Martinus Nyongesa Misiko**

Professor Misiko was a distinguished scholar and educator who served at Egerton University upto 1998 when he retired.

Born on 11th June 1932 to Late Mzee Nicholas Walumoli Misiko and Late Susana Namikoye in Chelekeyi-Misikhu, he was the beloved husband to the late Esther Jekkorir Misiko, and loving father of Cynthia Nasike Chebii, Prof Chelagat Namulunda Misiko, Nafula Elizabeth Misiko, David Tembi Misiko, Ruth Misiko Villinger and Paul Mabonga Misiko.

Brother to the late Edward Matthias, Christine, Maurison, Dr Stanley Mabonga, Thomas, late Josephat, Bishop George Mabonga, Anderson, Wangia, late Gilbert, late Alexander, Lynette, Nafuna among others.

Son-in-law to the late Phillip Kandie Cheptoo and Susan Tungo Kandie. Brother in law to late Martha Kolomiy, late Peris Kimwari, late Enoch, Eunice Cherogony, Agnes Cherogony, late Amos, Dinah Tongony, late Eric, Dr Kaabon, Amb, Julius Kandie, late Solomon, Mary, Rosebellah, Loice, Brigid, Eunice, Samuel among others.

Father-in-law to Samuel Kangogo, Brian Stefanec, Nelson Sisonik, Jennifer Lagat, Jandouwe Villinger and Clarice Ouma.

Cherished grandfather to Allan, Bryan, Chebet, Chepchumba, Chipego, Arnold, Christian, Massimo, Naima, Ashley, and Darian.

Funeral Service will be held on Friday, 24th October 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at St. Francis Church, Kasarani.

Requiem Mass will take place on Thursday, 30th October 2025, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Misikhu Parish.

Burial will be on Friday, 31st October 2025, at 12:00 noon, at the family home in Kambini Village, Kimilili Rural Sub-location, Bungoma County.

*"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" 2nd Corinthians 9:15.*

*May his soul rest in eternal peace.*

### Celebration of a Life well Lived

It is with humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the death of Eunice Hiuko Wandaka, on 20th October 2025. She hails from Ngaini village, Mathira West, Nyeri County.



**Eunice Hiuko Wandaka**  
Sunrise: 27/10/1939  
Sunset: 20/10/2025

Beloved wife of the Late Joseph Daniel Wandaka. Daughter of the Late Paul Kiberenge and the Late Martha Njeri.

Loving mother of Tom & Wambui Wambugu, Paul (Posh) & Jacqueline Kiberenge, Mike & Margaret Mukoma, Jane Wanjiru and Helen Njeri.

Grandmother of Mwochi & Sellah, Stephanie & Sancho, Wandaka, Jeremy & Carol, Romeo, Bush, Paulah, Sheena, Michelle, Wambo, Kaylah and Asher.

Great grandmother of Liam, Kendra, Seichi and Zahra.

Sister of the late Wachira, the late Nderitu, Hannah, Rev. Kaigire, the late Gatheru, Wanjira, Wambui and Kariuki.

Daughter in-law of the late Thomas Wambugu and the late Regina Wanjiru.

Sister in-law of the late Mukoma & the late Wambugu, the late Wangui, the late Wakonyu & Ndegwa, Kirigo, Njukia & the late Julia, Charity, Joyce, Rose and Mutugi.

Family and friends are meeting at the All Saints Cathedral Church today Friday 24th October and Jerusalem Estate daily from 5:00pm.

The cortege leaves Kenyatta Referral Hospital on Monday 27th October 2025 at 6:00am. The funeral service takes place thereafter at her home in Gachika Village, Mathira West, Nyeri County.

*"May the Almighty God Rest her soul in Eternal Peace".*

### Celebrating a Matriarch

It is with humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the passing on of Cecilia Mwende Njau of Karia village, Lioki location in Githunguri, Kiambu County which occurred on 21st October 2025 after a short illness borne with fortitude and grace.



**Cecilia Mwende Njau**  
1932 - 21st October 2025

Daughter of the late Ngechu Wamonde and the late Maryanne Nduta Ngechu.

Loving wife of the late Antony Njau Mukua. Sister of the late Machaga Ngechu and the late Gladys Wambui Muchai.

Loving mother of Regina Wanjiku (Ruiru), Bernard Muchai (UK), Godwin Ndichu (Nakuru), Samuel Gitau (Nbi), the late Mary Nduta, Julius Chaga (Pekay Bros), James Mathu (Blue Post), Simon Mbugua (Ruiru), Ng'ang'a Njau (Bremar Ltd), Lydia Wairimu (Githunguri), Cosmas Ngunyi (Nakuru), Nelly Wanjiru (Juja Prep), Joan Wambui (Msa), Bibian Waringa (Bidco) and the late Lucas Githinji.

Loving mother-in-law of her daughters and sons in-love. Grandmother and great grandmother of many.

Friends and family are meeting daily from 4.00 pm at her residence in Karia village, Lioki location to plan for her burial. There will be a requiem mass on Friday 24th October and Tuesday 28th October 2025 at 4.00 pm at her residence.

The cortege will leave KU Referral Hospital mortuary (KUTRRH) on Wednesday 29th October 2025 at 8.00 a.m for the funeral service at Sacred Heart Catholic Church Githare-ini. Burial will follow thereafter at her home in Karia Village.

*"I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" ~ 2nd Timothy 4:7*

**Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.**

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson ~



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CHAT WITH US ON WHATSAPP NUMBER: 0799616161

### Celebration Of Life

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Rose Angela Njeri Mboche on Tuesday 21st October, 2025

Daughter of Peter Mboche Mwangi, Deputy County Commissioner, Wanjohi Sub-County, Kipipiri in Nyandarua County and Christine Mboche of Magnum Credit, Nairobi.

Sister of Samuel Mwangi Mboche of Mangu High School. Granddaughter of the late Samuel Mwangi Mboche and Rose Njeri Samuel, the late Jonah Masika and Risper Masika. She was niece, cousin and a friend to many.

Prayers are being held daily at her parent's home at Kahawa Sukari, Kiu River Drive, Riverside Court, and at their rural home Nyakianga village, Njumbi Location, Mathiyoa Sub-County in Muranga County.

The cortege will leave Montenzuma Monalisa Funeral Home, Kabati on Monday the 27th October, 2025 at 8.00 am to her peaceful resting place at the family home Nyakianga Village, Njumbi Location, Mathiyoa Sub-County in Murang'a County.

In God's hand you rest, in our hearts you remain forever.



**Rose Angela Njeri Mboche**

**"What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us."**

**Heller Keller**

CHAT WITH US ON WHATSAPP NUMBER: 0799 61 61 61

### Appreciation

We, the family of Professor Karega Mutahi, express our deepest gratitude to God for the blessing of his life and the grace He provided him throughout his life. We extend our deepest appreciation and thank all who stood with us during his illness, passing and final farewell. Your presence, kindness and support gave us strength at a time when our hearts were heavy and our spirits weary.

We sincerely thank the doctors, nurses, and medical staff of Aga Khan Hospital. A special appreciation to the dedicated team of Professor's caregivers for their tireless efforts and compassionate care.

Special recognition to the church community and clergy of All Saints Cathedral, Nairobi, ACK Bishop of Murang'a and ACK Kaganjo Church Kiriaini for their spiritual support, prayers and encouragement.

A big thank you to the Kiriaini Security Personnel for ensuring our safety and an incident free day. To the Youth of Kiriaini, thank you too for your presence and support. Heartfelt thanks to the Director of Education, Murang'a County and the management and staff of St. Angela Kiriaini Girls High School for accommodating us. A very special thank you to the management and staff of Goshen Farm Hotel, Kiriaini. Your hospitality, care and understanding was an enormous blessing to us.

We wish to recognize the presence of Professor's former colleagues and friends from the National and County Governments.

To the team from Mfangano Island who travelled many hours to bid Professor farewell, we were truly humbled and deeply honoured by your presence.

To all our friends and well-wishers, our neighbours both in Nairobi and Kiriaini, thank you for your visits, comforting words and assistance. Special thanks to Hse. 478 for opening your home to us.

Many thanks to the funeral committees for ensuring everything ran smoothly. A warm thank you to our immediate and extended families for their unwavering love, presence, support and encouragement.

Finally, to all who contributed in ways big and small- through financial support, organizing the funeral, or simply being present- please accept our heartfelt thanks and may God bless you always.



**Professor Karega Mutahi**

### A Heartfelt Appreciation



**Elizabeth Nzisa Mbatha (Kavumbu)**  
1945 – 05/10/2025

We, the family of the late Elizabeth Mbatha, are deeply grateful for the incredible emotional, spiritual, and financial support we received during this difficult time. God truly sends people in our lives when we need them most, and each of you has been a blessing to us.

Your generosity, visits, kind words of comfort, and constant encouragement gave us strength as we navigated the loss of our beloved mother, grandmother, sister and aunt. Through your love, we were able to give her a fitting farewell, one that reflected her incredible life and legacy. You embraced us with open hearts, showing God's love in ways we will never forget. May God bless each of you abundantly.

We also wish to extend a special thank you to the caregivers and staff who made Mum's life comfortable in her final years, as well as the doctors and nurses at Nairobi Hospital who cared for her during her hospitalization. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to Lee Funeral Home and to the funeral committees in Nairobi and Machakos who ensured that Mum was laid to rest with dignity and honor.

A sincere thank you to the Churches and Ministries that hosted or led the prayers and memorial services—Nairobi Chapel, Nairobi Baptist, Good Shepherd ACK St. Barnabas, AIC Sun Valley and ABC Mamiloki/Kavumbu. Your support through prayer and fellowship has been a source of great comfort.

While it is impossible to individually mention every one of you, please know that we hold your kindness and support close to our hearts. Your prayers, encouragement, and assistance have made the weight of our loss more bearable. With profound gratitude, we offer this note as a token of our appreciation.

May God continue to bless each of you richly.  
With deepest thanks,  
The Mbatha Family.

### Celebration of a life well lived



**Francis Gichiri Ndua (GN)**

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the death of Francis Gichiri Ndua (GN) of Kiambu County after a short illness bravely borne. Gichiri was the eldest child of the late Peter Ndua Gichiri and the late Elizabeth Njeri Ndua of Mutomo Village.

Until his death he was a Senior Consultant at Maritime Business & Economic Consultants Limited and a former Managing Director at Kenya Ports Authority.

Beloved husband of Catherine Wamuyu Gichiri and Son in Law of Isabella Muthoni and the late Arthur Kabugi.

Cherished Father of Caroline Gichiri, Denis Ndua, Kabugi Arthur, Muthoni Gichiri and Debora Gikeno.

He was a brother of Agnes Nuna, Teresia Njoki, James Gitau, the late George Wachira, the late John Thuo, Regina Murugi, Paul Ngugi, Magdalene Wambui and Monica Wanjeri.

Loving grandfather of Imani Njeri, Lee Gichiri, Levi Kagimbi and Luke Kamiti.

Father in Law to Dorcas Wairimu Kagimbi and a friend of many.

Family and friends are meeting at his homes along Greenwood Drive, Nyali, Mombasa and Mokoyeti Road East, Karengata, Nairobi from Thursday 23rd October 2025. Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith (2nd Timothy 4:7)*

### Death and Funeral Announcement



**Elidah Wanjiku Kiunga (Mrs Kiunga)**

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Mrs. Elidah Wanjiku Kiunga, which occurred on 20th October 2025 while receiving treatment at Kenyatta University Hospital.

She was the beloved daughter of the late Benjamin Hotie Njagi, the late Agnes Mugeci Hotie, and the late Jane Wanjiku Hotie. Daughter-in-law of the late Bedan Thiong'o, Hellen Wangari Thiong'o, and Bilha Wanjiru Thiong'o.

She was the loving wife of the late John Kiunga Thiong'o, and a devoted mother of Antony Thiong'o and the late Mercy Waithera, Rose Wangari, Benson Hotie and Emma Nduta, and Juddy Mugechi. She was a cherished grandmother of Brian, Ian, Ben, Clinton, Natasha, Tamara, Calvin, Levien, Natalia, and Flavia.

Elidah was a dear sister of the late Eudius, Mwangi, Kamau, Njeri, Njagi, Wangui, Mugo, and Macharia, and a valued sister-in-law of Geoffrey, Purity, John, Samuel, Alice, William, and the late Julius, Edward, Nancy, Jane, Beth, Wacui, Lameck, and Damaris. She will be fondly remembered as a loving aunt, friend, mentor, and a pillar of strength to many. Her kindness, generosity, and unwavering love for her family and community will remain an enduring legacy.

Family and friends are meeting daily at Blue Springs Hotel (along Thika Road) and at her home in Nyangiti, Gitugi for prayers and funeral arrangements. The cortege will leave Kenyatta University Hospital Mortuary on Tuesday, 28th October 2025, for a funeral service at Nyangiti primary play ground and there after burial at her home.

*"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."*  
*"Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."*  
- Revelation 14:13

We love you, Mum.  
Mwalimu, rest peacefully in God's hands. Amen.



MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION  
NATIONAL REGISTRATION BUREAU

### Death and Funeral Announcement

It is with humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the passing of Caroline Wanjugu Muthonjo (Chugu), who until her demise was working with the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services — National Registration Bureau.

She was the beloved daughter of James Muthonjo and the late Mary Waithira Muthonjo.

Sister of John Macharia, Lucy Muthoni, the late Mercy Nyaguthii and Tiffany Wanjiru. Sister-in-law of Raphael Muriuki and Grace Macharia.

Loving auntie of Stacy Wanjiru, Sammy Macharia, Tamara Waithira, Stacy Waithera, Muthonjo Macharia, Raphaela Wangari, Moses Macharia, Esther Macharia, Adiel Munene among others.

Family, friends and relatives are meeting at Homeland Inn, Thika Road, from Tuesday to Friday starting at 6.00 pm and at home in Thaihi village for prayers.

The cortege will leave KU Referral Hospital Mortuary on Monday 27th October, 2025, for burial at Thaihi village, Kirimukuyu location, Mathira Division, Mathira Sub-County in Nyeri County on the same day.

*"The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."*



**Caroline Wanjugu Muthonjo (Chugu)**

Sunrise: 12<sup>th</sup> March, 1981 ~  
Sunset: 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2025

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# Sport

**Taekwondo** Olympian Faith Ogallo takes on new role of environmental conservation **P. 40**



**Athletics**  
Why Ruth Chepngetich will keep world record despite three-year ban by Athletics Integrity Unit for doping  
**← P.40**



Kenyan athletes who will compete in 2025 Summer Deaflympics pose for a photo yesterday with officials from Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya after a training at Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani. PHOTO | POOL

## Action in the PGK Tour sixth leg gets under way at Diamonds Leisure

BY VICTOR OTIENO

The Kenyan squad that will compete at the 2025 Summer Deaflympics have gained valuable insights into competing clean, thanks to a four-day workshop by Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya (ADAK).

The initiative, which was a collaboration between the Ministry of Sports and ADAK concluded on Thursday at Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani in Nairobi.

The 2025 Summer Deaflympics will take place in Tokyo from November 15 to 26.

Kenya will be represented by a contingent of 177 athletes. Kenyan athletes will compete in five disciplines - athletics, swimming, golf, women's basketball and men's handball.

Kenya has been on the spot over the rising cases of doping. Last month, ADAK survived sanctions after the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) gave it more time to be fully compliant with its rules governing clean sport.

Addressing the press after conclusion of the training yesterday, Kenya Deaf Athletics coach Samuel Kibet said the initiative will go a long way in preserving the country's good reputation in deaf athletics.

"Our country has been so much affected by doping. Luckily, we have never had such issues in deaf athletics team," said Kibet.

"We want to believe that after this session of anti-doping, they will be more informed than before. We need to safeguard our sports and there is no better way of doing it than being informed so we thank the ADAK team for visiting us," he added.

Team Kenya captain Isaac Atima noted that the training had enlightened them about the prohibited substances that they should avoid to prevent sanctions.

He encouraged his fellow athletes to abide by the regulation to avoid being derailed by sanctions.

"This training has helped us to understand what substances to avoid," Atima, who competes in men's 400m and 400m hurdles, said.

"We have been trained many times. As an athlete, I need to run clean and train without using banned substances which are not beneficial to the athlete. I would like to encourage my colleagues to be cautious with what they are using because if one uses a substance which is prohibited, it can lead to sanctions and an end to one's career," he added.

## Hunt for Kenya Open slots on in Kwale

BY LARRY NGALA

The hunt for slots in the 2026 Magical Kenya Open resumed yesterday at Diamonds Leisure Golf Club in Kwale, where a field of 39 players listed their names to battle it out for cash and points towards the PGK Equator Tour Order of Merit.

The event which follows the fifth leg held at the par 73 Nakuru Golf Club course on October 5, like the rest, offers a prize fund of Sh1.5 million. The winner will take home Sh201,000.

Taking charge in the opening round, was Kenya Railway Golf Club's Samuel Njoroge who fired an impressive four under par 68, a round that included six bird-

ies and two bogeys.

Making an early chase for the top was senior pro Dismas Indiza who however dropped three shots at the front nine despite having started with two back to back birdies. It is however the back nine's bogeys at the 14th and 17th which denied him the leadership.

However Indiza who won the fifth leg at the Nakuru Golf Club on October 5, still managed to close day one of the tournament on one under par 71, to tie for second place with Karen's Edwin Mudanyi who also shot one under par 71. The last time the pros were at Leisure in August, Indiza was beaten by Rwanda's Celestin Nsanuwera in the Sunshine Development Tour East Africa Swing.

**2026 Women's Afcon qualifiers** Kenya is two matches away from Cup

## Starlets in final push for place in Africa Cup

The team plays Gambia from 4pm at Nyayo in first leg of final round of the qualifiers



Harambee Starlets goalkeeper Annedey Kundu trains with the team yesterday at Nyayo National Stadium. PHOTO | POOL

BY TOTO AREGE

Harambee Starlets will host Gambia from 4pm today, in the first leg of the final round of 2026 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (Wafcon) qualifiers at Nyayo National Stadium.

The reverse fixture will be played on Tuesday at Stade Lat Dior in Thies, some kilometres to the east of Senegal's capital city Dakar because Gambia does not have a stadium that meets Caf standards.

The aggregate winner will qualify for 2026 Wafcon which will be held in Morocco from March 17 to April 3 next year.

Speaking to journalists yesterday at Nyayo National Stadium, Starlets coach Beldine Odemba said the team utilised a three-week training camp in Nairobi to adequately prepare for the crucial fixture.

"The girls are in high spirits and looking forward to the match. Despite external pressure, the team remains focused, and morale is high," she said.

In their first meeting, the Caf "A" licensed coach is confident they have adequately prepared for their opponents.

"We have analyzed Gambia's last two matches against Niger, and identified their strengths and weaknesses. We understand their scoring approach and will ensure they don't gain any points against us," noted Odemba.

Team captain and veteran defender Dorcas Shikobe urged fans to turn up in large numbers to support the squad. Shikobe, who was the assistant captain of Kenya's squad at the 2016 Wafcon held in Cameroon, urged fans to support them as they do the men's team, Harambee Stars, despite the tough match ahead.

"It will be a tough match, but we urge fans to come and support us like they do the men's team Harambee Stars," she said. "The squad has young new faces and we are constantly pushing them as football is for everyone regardless of age."

Starlets are aiming for their second appearance in the tournament a decade, while Gambia, nicknamed "Scorpions" seek their first qualification after unsuccessful attempts in 2018, 2022, and in 2024.

"Wafcon offers invaluable exposure and a platform for players to impress top clubs," goalkeeper Lilian Awuor who plays for Romanian Club Farul Constanta said. As of yesterday, Odemba had not yet announced the final squad for the match. Yesterday's training session included 23 of the 40 players from the provisional squad.

Notable names in the squad include goalkeepers Annedey Kundu, Awuor, and Mercy Akoth. The team's backline will consist of Lorine Ilavonga, Ruth Ingosi, Tabitha Amoiti, Shikobe, Enez Mango, Leah Andiemba, and Vivian Nasaka.

Medina Abubakar, Corazone Aquino, Diana Wacera, Martha Amnyolet, Elizabeth Muteshi, Lavender Ann, and Fasilah Adhiambo will control the midfield.

The team's attack will feature Mwanalima Adam, Tumaini Waliaula, Violet Nanjala, Elizabeth Wambui, Arine Madalina, and Catherine Khaemba.

The Kenyan girls concluded their training yesterday morning at Nyayo National Stadium, while the Scorpions arrived on Wednesday night and trained at the same venue yesterday evening.

Coached by Mariama Sowe, the West Africans finalized their 23-player squad last Sunday, and have six foreign-based players in the squad. Two of the team's players are based in Senegal, with one each in Latvia, Spain, Estonia, and Russia. The remaining 18 are local-based players.

The Starlets reached the final stage of the qualifiers by defeating Tunisia 1-0 on aggregate in February, drawing 0-0 in Nairobi and winning 1-0 in Sousse with an early goal thanks to striker Tereza Engesha.

## Roads to be closed ahead of StanChart Marathon

BY AYUMBA AYODI

The Traffic Department has announced road closures in Nairobi from Saturday as the city prepares to host the 2025 Standard Chartered Nairobi Marathon.

Yesterday, Nairobi Traffic Commander Joseph Chirchir said the Southern Bypass will be closed starting from midnight on Saturday till Sunday at 2pm for the marathon. The Southern Bypass will be closed from the Ole Sereni interchange to Kikuyu town. Vehicles using the Southern bypass will be diverted to Mombasa Road via Uhuru Highway.

While making the announcement, Mr Chirchir said there would be minimal traffic disruption during this year's race, which will be held on Sunday.

Mr Chirchir also announced that the Southern Bypass will be closed at different points, including Gituru near Kikuyu, the upper deck of the Ngong Road interchange, and the Inland Container Depot.

Alternative routes for city motorists include Waiyaki Way to Central Business District (CBD), Lang'ata Road via City Stadium to Nairobi's CBD, the Ngong Road interchange (lower deck), and Dagoretti Road.

"Those from Kikuyu will use the main Nairobi-Nakuru Highway," Chirchir said. Some roads connecting to the Southern Bypass will be closed starting at midnight on Saturday," said Chirchir. He noted that Langata Road and Langata Link Road will remain open to allow access to Uhuru Gardens and the public parking lot at Langata Primary School.

Chirchir said the 14-hour road closure is meant to ensure safety and smooth running of the event for athletes, fans, and motorists.

"Security has been increased across Nairobi, and we urge motorists to follow traffic rules and cooperate with police officers stationed along the affected routes for their own convenience," Mr Chirchir said.

He was briefing the media in Nairobi ahead of the 22nd edition of the marathon.

Mr Chirchir was accompanied by Chief Inspector Agnes Masengeli. Also present were Joyce Kibe, the Standard Chartered Bank head of corporate affairs, brand, and marketing for Kenya and Africa, and the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) chairman, Mr David Mwindi.

From the Carnivore Restaurant, participants in the full marathon will head towards Ole Sereni Hotel, then turn around at the ICD and head back to the Ole Sereni Hotel, enjoying the scenic Nairobi National Park along the way.

They will pass through the park, then make a turn at Alliance Concrete Limited, before returning to the finish line at Uhuru Gardens.

**Scaling heights** Olympian, who has won many international awards, is now coaching, mentoring

# Faith Ogallo: From taekwondo mat to global climate advocate

The athlete is currently World Taekwondo Sustainability Ambassador for Environmental Conservation

BY GEOFFREY ANENE

**O**n October 20, at Ithookwe Stadium in Kitui County, Kenyans wrapped themselves in the national flag as patriotic songs filled the air to mark this year's Mashujaa Day.

There was celebratory mood on the day set aside to honour men and women whose courage, sacrifice and dedication have shaped Kenya's history.

Among those honoured by the government were 30 sports icons, among them Olympics taekwondo star and now climate advocate Faith Ogallo. When she stepped forward to be bestowed with the prestigious Head of State Commendation (HSC), she couldn't hide her joy.

"It has been my pride representing my country in international taekwondo events," she said as she thanked President William Ruto, the National Heroes Council, Kenya Taekwondo Federation, Kibabii University and Kenyans for standing behind her during competitions.

To Ogallo, the award was not an end, but a call to deepen her mission of transforming sports in Kenya, empowering youth and protecting the environment.

Born in February 1994 in Busia County, Ogallo attended St Mary's Butula Girls and Maria Soti Girls Educational Centre.

She is a multi-talented athlete, having competed in basketball, netball, tug of war and athletics. Her journey into taekwondo began unexpectedly, at 22, while pursuing a bachelor's degree in Social Work at Kibabii University. At 22, many considered her too old to start competitive sport.

"I never saw taekwondo as just a sport," she recalls. "It was a platform to empower, teach discipline and inspire the youth."

Her athletic ability and resilience quickly stood out. In 2018, she won gold at the East Africa University Games in Dodoma, Tanzania, representing Kibabii University.

Her breakthrough came at the 2019 African Games in Rabat, Morocco, where she won silver. She'd been training in Cairo. That performance qualified her for the African Olympic Qualification Tournament for Tokyo 2020.

In February 2020, Ogallo made history by reaching the semi-finals of the qualifier tournament. She became only the second Kenyan woman to qualify for the Olympics in taekwondo, after Milkah Akinyi in 2008.

"Representing Kenya at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo was humbling and transformative," she says. Ogallo went on to win bronze medals at the 2021 African Taekwondo Championships in Dakar, Senegal, and at the 2023 African Games in Accra. Internationally, she also won two bronze medals at the Fujairah Open in the UAE and gold at the India International Taekwondo Tournament.

Despite her accolades, Ogallo says her journey is "about impact, not medals."

Off the mat, Ogallo has deeply invested in education and social change. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Kibabii University, a Postgraduate Diploma in Sports Science and Health Promotion from Masinde Muliro University of



Kenya taekwondo Olympian Faith Ogallo (left) and her training partner Newton Maliro during a training session at Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani, on April 6, 2021. She was preparing for the 2021 Tokyo Olympics. CHRIS OMOLLO | NATION



Faith Ogallo before being inducted into the prestigious Olympians for Life programme in Paris on July 29 last year. PHOTO | POOL

Science and Technology. She is pursuing a master's degree in the same field. She also holds a Diploma in Olympic Studies from the International Olympic Academy in Greece and certifications in first aid, competition integrity and nursing.

"As a sociologist and sports scientist, sport has always been my way of transforming lives," she says, hoping the Head of State Commendation inspires support for taekwondo infrastructure in Kenya.

Her influence extends beyond sports to environmental advocacy. On July 16, World Taekwondo named her Sustainabil-

ity Ambassador for Environmental Conservation, alongside Beth Munro of Great Britain and Zimbabwean Natsiraishe Maritsa. World Taekwondo recognised her for initiating clean-up drives, tree-planting campaigns and climate education in Bungoma after witnessing risks caused by unmanaged waste.

"Each honour reaffirms my mission to use sport as a tool for societal change," Ogallo said of the appointment.

She is also a UN Young Champion of Ecosystem Restoration under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Currently, Ogallo coaches taekwondo at Kibabii University and mentors athletes. She has scaled back on international competitions to focus on grassroots development. "It is not easy to produce Kenyan Olympians in this sport," she explains. "Funding and access to world-class training facilities remain major challenges."

Rather than lament, she acts. With support from Kibabii University Vice Chancellor Isaac Ipara Odeo, she leads mentorship programmes combining martial arts with leadership, gender equity, life skills and environmental education.

Prof Odeo praised her influence, saying her recognition "highlights the role athletes play in championing sustainability and positive change beyond the arena."

Ogallo's mentorship is already yielding results. One of her mentees, Patience Neema, a criminology student, recently qualified for the finals of the African Championships in the Under-67kg category. "Coach Faith is more than a coach. She is a mentor, a sister, a motivator," Neema said.

Ogallo's most ambitious vision is the proposed Faith Ogallo Climate-Smart World-Class Sports Facility at Kibabii University. It aims to run on renewable energy, incor-

porate rainwater harvesting, use sustainable materials and serve as a hub for sport, education and innovation.

"Kenya has a proud sporting heritage," she notes. "But access to world-class facilities, especially for sports such as taekwondo, is limited. This project is about excellence, environment and empowerment."

If completed, it would be the first of its kind in Africa—combining sport and sustainability to produce champions both on the mat and for the planet.

Ogallo is also outspoken on education reform, particularly the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC).

"The system does not adequately integrate arts and sports," she says. She dreams of creating safe, inclusive, world-class training environments locally, inspired by her exposure to facilities abroad through World Taekwondo.

Asked what being named a national hero means, Ogallo does not speak of fame. "I am a hero because of sport and the support from Kenyans," she explains. "This honour belongs to all of us—every young athlete who dreams, every coach who sacrifices, every Kenyan who believes in the power of sport."

Ogallo's journey spans continents and causes, from Busia and Bungoma to Tokyo, from village clean-ups to international sustainability forums. She continues to fight, not only for medals, but for a greener, fairer and more hopeful world.

"The mat is where the fight begins," she reflects. "But it is off the mat where the real transformation happens."

Ogallo is more than a fighter. She is a leader, a thinker, an activist and a true shujaa - one whose legacy is being built in every step she takes, both on and off the mat.



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Daily Nation - Friday



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**Athletics** Head of World Athletics' integrity arm says athlete's conviction shows that nobody is above the rules

# Chepng'etich banned for three years

But the Kenyan athlete will keep her world record since it falls outside the March 14 window for her disqualified results

BY AYUMBA AYODI

Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) has banned women's marathon world record holder, Ruth Chepng'etich from Kenya, for three years for doping.

AIU which is the independent integrity arm of World Athletics yesterday announced that it had banned Chepng'etich for three years after the three-time Chicago Marathon champion admitted to Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) regarding the presence and use of banned diuretic Hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ).

The 31-year-old 2019 world marathon champion accepted the charges and sanctions following a positive test for the banned diuretic from a sample on March 14, 2025, and a subsequent AIU investigations. Chepng'etich, who is a member of Rosa Associati management, had withdrawn from the London Marathon held on April 27, 2025 alleging that she had not prepared well, only for AIU to pull the rag under her feet

on July 17, 2025 by flagging her for anti-doping offence.

Chepng'etich broke women's marathon world record and became the first woman in history to run the distance in under two hours and 10 minutes when she clocked 2:09:56 to win the Chicago Marathon October last year. Chepng'etich, who also won the Chicago Marathon in 2021, retained the title in 2022. She also won the 2023 Chicago Marathon.

Yesterday, AIU's Chief Executive Officer Brett Clothier said Chepng'etich will keep her world record and her previous victories because the disqualified results are only those dating from March 14, 2025 to the present.

The AIU issued Chepng'etich with a Notice of Charge seeking a four-year sanction on August 22, 2025. She admitted the ADRVs and, since she accepted the proposed sanction within 20 days on September 10, 2025, she was granted an automatic reduction of one year from her impending four-year ban (under 'Early Ad-

mission and Acceptance of Sanction' provision in ADR clause 10.8.1).

Chepng'etich had previously maintained that she could not explain the positive test and that she had never doped. She changed that explanation on July 31, 2025 and wrote to AIU that "she had now recalled that she had been taken ill two days before the positive test, and she had taken her housemaid's medication as treatment, without taking any steps to verify if it contained a prohibited substance."

She stated that she had forgotten to disclose the incident to AIU's investigators. She sent a photo of the medication's blister pack which was clearly marked 'Hydrochlorothiazide'.

While the AIU considered her new explanation to be hardly credible, for the purposes of the Anti-Doping Rules (ADR), it did not assist in mitigating the standard two-year sanction for a specified substance such as HCTZ. The ADR treats Chepng'etich's taking



Ruth Chepng'etich of Kenya celebrates after finishing first in the women's race in a world record time of 2:09:56 during the 2024 Chicago Marathon at Grant Park on October 13, 2024. PATRICK GORSKI | REUTERS

her housemaid's medication as "indirect intent", for which a four-year sanction applies.

A statement from AIU indicated that whilst diuretics are known to be abused by athletes to mask the presence in urine of other Prohibited Substances, HCTZ has also been identified as a potential contaminant in pharmaceutical products.

WADA has ascribed a minimum reporting limit of 20ng/ml for it, below which a positive test should not be reported. An estimated concentration of 3800ng/mL of HCTZ was found in the positive urine sample collected from Chepng'etich.

When she was initially interviewed by AIU investigators on April 16, 2025, Chepng'etich could not provide an explanation for the positive test.

At the time, to rule out the possibility of contamination, evidence was collected from her, including her detailed recollection of all the

supplements and medications she had taken in the lead up to the positive test, and all available supplements and medications in her possession were immediately retained by the AIU for analysis. Chepng'etich's mobile phone was also copied for analysis.

At a subsequent interview, on July 11, 2025, Chepng'etich was confronted with evidence acquired from her mobile telephone indicating a reasonable suspicion that her positive test may have been intentional.

AIU explained that she was also informed that all the supplements and medications that had been taken for analysis had been reported by a WADA-accredited laboratory as negative for HCTZ.

AIU Chairman David Howman noted that Chepng'etich's conviction showed that nobody is above the rules, and lauded the industry's commitment to protecting the integrity of the sport.

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His Excellency Lieutenant General Doctor SERETSE KHAMA IAN KHAMA

in recognition of his outstanding leadership and contribution to society

Sunday, 9th November 2025 — 10:00 AM EAT  
Lukenya University, Mtito Andei Campus

Read the full citation here



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MR. PATRICK MAKAU, H.S.C.

World Marathon Record Holder & UN Environment Programme Clean Air Ambassador (2013)

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to athletics, environmental advocacy, and community service.

Monday 10 November 2025

10.00 AM EAT

Lukenya University, Mtito Andei Campus

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**Voice**male A daughter shaped by politics, legacy, and love faces her defining moment **P.3**

# 2 theVoice

## Sex for slots The scandal staining 'Home of Champions'

**EXPLOITATION:** From sexual advances by coaches to femicide, Iten's female athletes face dangers far beyond the track. Weak safeguards, financial vulnerability, and silence from authorities continue to fuel the crisis **P.4-5**

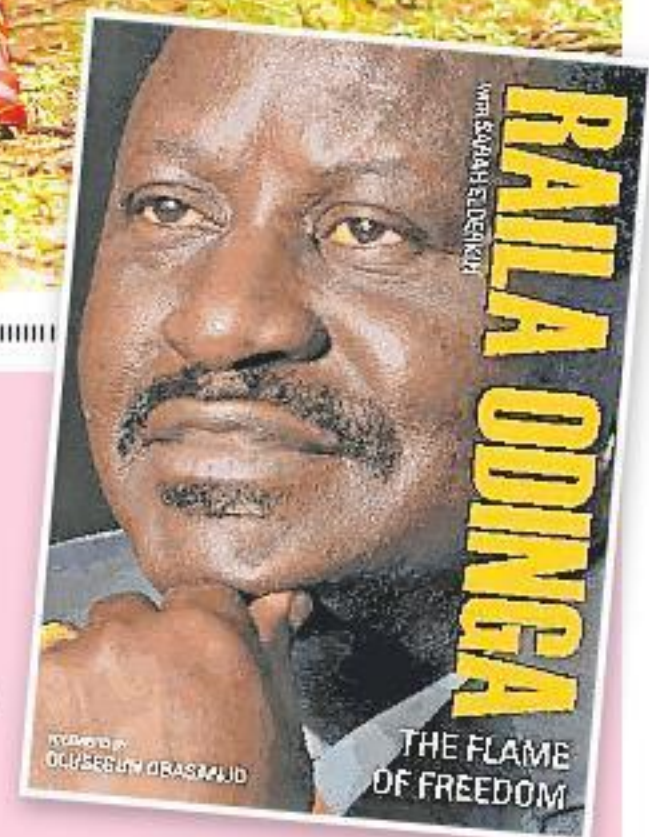


### The WomanRep Files

The MP who doesn't travel with bodyguards: Inside Toto's unusual leadership **P.6**

### Good Read

The untold story of how Phoebe Asiyo, Raila fought 50 years for gender equality **P.8**



WHAT'S UP AFRICA?

**LESOTHO**  
Male clinics, community dialogues redefine roles

In the remote mountain villages of Mokhotlong, men are stepping into new roles: as champions of change, advocates of equality, and protectors of family wellbeing. For years, these men were reluctant to seek healthcare, particularly when it came to sexual and reproductive health. Cultural expectations, long queues, and the discomfort of discussing private issues with female health workers kept many away from clinics. At the same time, historically, men's clinics across the country focused on HIV/Aids services, with minimal attention to broader SRHR needs. Change is taking root, driven by a deliberate effort to engage men in ways that are respectful, informed, and inclusive. At the heart of this shift is the male clinic, where trained male nurses deliver a tailored SRHR package in spaces where men feel seen and supported.

**BURUNDI**  
Empowering women through education

The country's constitution provides for a 30 per cent quota of women in the government and parliament, with the objective of ensuring active participation and role of women in politics. At the same time, it has made progress in the representation of women in electoral positions since 2010, despite the fact that the country has faced socioeconomic crises and poor governance throughout its history. This year, the country has made significant efforts to promote women's education, rights, and gender equality to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Free schooling for basic education has provided equal opportunities for boys and girls, promoting literacy rates. The country has made significant contributions to the Beijing Platform for Action to address the issues, including GBV and women's active participation in the decision-making.

**ERITREA**  
Seminar held for female members of defence forces

Senait Afwerki, head of the National Union of Eritrean Women branch, delivered a seminar to female members of the Central Command of the Eritrean Defence Forces in Ala, under the theme "Role of Eritrean Women Before and After Independence." In her presentation, Senait gave a detailed account of women's movements worldwide and noted that while the UN formally recognised International Women's Day in 1979, Eritrean women had already been fighting alongside their compatriots for national independence. She emphasised the EPLF's programmes during the armed struggle, which created opportunities for women's participation, and highlighted the establishment of women's association in 1979 as an empowerment landmark. She urged participants to strengthen their capacity through vocational training and personal initiative.

Source: Internet; By Moraa Obiria

EDITOR'S NOTE

# Here's why media must name rapists

Yesterday, I attended, as a panellist, the launch of a study by Aga Khan University's Graduate School of Media and Communications on how East African media frame sexual and gender-based violence. The research held up a mirror to our journalism—and the reflection was uncomfortable. The numbers were stark: 90 per cent of our stories frame victims sympathetically. Only six per cent explicitly hold perpetrators responsible. Perpetrators appear as main actors in just three per cent of coverage. I left with a burning question: Why can we name a chicken thief but not a rapist?



DORCAS MUGA-ODUMBE

The anti-Finance Bill protests last year brought this into sharp focus. Women and girls were violated—some while exercising their right to demonstrate, others opportunistically attacked in the chaos. We reported the trauma, the hospital visits, the shattered lives. But the men who did this? Faceless. Nameless. Gone. In the same newsrooms where we debate whether to name a rape suspect—citing sub-judice, defamation risk, family reputation—we publish

full names and photos of people arrested for stealing chickens or phones. We give their villages, ages, previous convictions. A man steals a chicken, we make him infamous. A man rapes a woman, we make him invisible.

This isn't about vengeance. It's about accountability. And our collective silence is an accomplice. I understand the barriers. Legal teams warn about defamation suits. Police withhold perpetrator details. Families beg us to protect the accused's identity. But let's be honest: this caution protects reputations over justice. Men over women. Today's comfort over tomorrow's safety. Here's the uncomfortable truth: media cannot fix this alone. Our legal framework makes it more dangerous for a journalist to name a rapist than for someone to commit rape. That's structural protection. Other countries treat sexual violence with the same seriousness as terrorism or corruption—as a national crisis requiring national-level response. They've created legal frameworks that allow public interest reporting without exposing media to crippling lawsuits. We need that here.

A public interest defence in our defama-

tion laws that protects media reporting verified facts about sexual violence cases. Factual, responsible reporting on matters affecting public safety shouldn't bankrupt newsrooms. We need sex offender registries—publicly accessible databases of convicted perpetrators. Not allegations. Convictions. Right now, a convicted rapist can move neighbourhoods and no one knows. That's not privacy protection; that's enabling serial predation. We need expedited prosecution for sexual violence cases. When trials take five years, the public forgets, media moves on, perpetrators fade into comfortable anonymity. Countries that treat sexual violence as a national priority fast-track these cases. Why don't we?

We need clear protocols for law enforcement on releasing perpetrator information. Police routinely provide full details of robbery suspects but develop amnesia about rape suspects. If police can name a theft suspect, they can name a rape suspect. We need accountability for institutions that shield perpetrators. When schools transfer accused teachers instead of reporting them, when churches relocate abusive clergy, when families pressure survivors to "forgive", these should carry legal consequences. Shielding perpetrators is complicity. This isn't about destroying lives over alle-

gations. It's about ensuring sexual violence carries real, public, lasting consequences for those convicted. Right now, the only people whose lives are destroyed are survivors—their trauma documented, their movements restricted because we failed to restrict their perpetrators. When a culprit remains nameless, he remains anyone. He could be a colleague, a neighbour, a family member—and we'll never know until he strikes again. Impunity doesn't end with one victim. It spreads. Imagine if sexual violence was treated like the national emergency it is. Imagine if convicted culprits' names were as easy to find as company tax records. Imagine if reporting responsibly on sexual violence carried legal protection instead of legal risk. Imagine how many women and girls might walk home safer.

Ninety per cent victim framing hasn't stopped the violence. It's time we tried something else: a legal and cultural framework that makes perpetrator accountability not just possible but inevitable. If we can name chicken thieves without fear of defamation, we can create laws that let us name rapists. If we can't, we need to ask why a chicken's value outweighs a woman's dignity—and who benefits from that equation.

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## The women who stood with him: Grief, gratitude at Raila's funeral



Emotional scenes in Jomo Kenyatta Stadium as thousands gather for the funeral of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga in Kisumu County last Saturday.

PHOTO | REUTERS

ON THE RADAR  
Compiled by Wanja Mbutia



**Dr Okumba Miruka**

The gender and social justice scholar and *Daily Nation's* 'the Voice' columnist was declared a national hero during the Mashujaa Day celebrations and awarded a medal and presidential certificate for his outstanding contribution to promoting gender equality, human rights, and social justice, marking over three decades of impactful contributions. Dr Miruka is an author of training manuals and oral literature books. He is also a lecturer in Gender and Development Studies at South Eastern Kenya University.



**Wangu Kanuri**

The Nation journalist is among three finalists shortlisted for the Thomson Foundation Young Journalist Award, a prestigious prize that celebrates outstanding early-career reporters who demonstrate courage, curiosity, and impact in storytelling. This year, 681 entries were submitted by 227 journalists across 60 countries. Three names rose to the top as finalists. Her shortlisted entries include an investigation into pharmacies illegally selling Ozempic, and the toll of extreme heat on schoolchildren.



**Julie Mulonga**

Julie has been named among the 2025 Women Changemakers, a prestigious honour recognising women in conservation. She has over 25 years of experience in water and environment. The award places her alongside women who have conserved wetlands in Latin America, Asia, Europe, and Oceania. She hopes her global recognition will enhance support for wetlands conservation in Kenya and encourage policymakers to integrate ecosystems fully into national development planning.

STAY IN TOUCH



theVoice

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In partnership with the Gates Foundation

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**Daisy's World** Line between boss and domestic worker can be thin and blurry, raising questions about respect, space and humanity

# When the house help becomes the head of the house



Daisy Okoti

**W**hat would you do if your house girl had a baby in your house?

My friend Joy and I had planned to meet on Thursday evening after work. It had been years since we last met in person, but thanks to Instagram and TikTok, we never really lost touch. Still, this was different—a proper catch-up. We had both cleared our schedules so completely that, honestly, only the second coming of Christ could have cancelled that date.

I was upbeat when I texted her that morning.

"Checking in for this evening," my text said.

Joy did not reply right away, but that was not really an issue. When her message came in two hours later, my jaw dropped at just how unbelievable the content was.

"...unfortunately I won't be coming to town. My house help has had a baby in my house, so I am the mother, the babysitter and the house help today."

I was stunned, and not knowing what to say, I congratulated her on her 'second baby'. Truth is stranger than fiction.

"I asked her two weeks ago how far along she was. She said five months, and we agreed she'd leave at the end of this month. I did not know she was nearly due!" Joy said, pre-empting the question I was going to ask—why

she was keeping a heavily pregnant girl as a house help.

With our date cancelled, it was time to quickly adjust to the fact that Joy and I would have to remain content with keeping abreast of each other's lives on social media and through the occasional phone calls.

If you were my friend Joy, what would you have done?

So far, I haven't needed to employ a live-in house help, so in that sense, I've been lucky. Still, I've had to draw a few boundaries with the lady who comes to clean once a week. When we first started working together, I'd often come home to find the sofas pushed back against the wall—and the bed, too. At first, I thought it was a simple oversight, that she'd moved them to clean and forgotten to return them. But soon, rearranging furniture became my Friday evening routine. In the kitchen, she'd also reorganise my cupboards, moving pots and pans to new spots. More than once, I found myself hunting for my sufurias when all I wanted was to make dinner.

After one month of this extra work, I picked up my phone and called her. To my surprise, she did not leave the furniture in the new positions by accident. She left them there on purpose because that was how I should arrange the house. Being older than

me, she assumed she knew how to arrange my house better than I did. I took a deep breath and, in the calmest voice possible, I told her not to rearrange my house for me. She sounded disappointed.



ed, but adjusted in the coming weeks, and now we coexist harmoniously.

My experience is minor compared to that of my friend Lillian. Like my other friend Joy, she is married and has a four-year-old daughter. Lillian's house girl, a certified Gen Z, is energetic and ambitious—but struggles with boundaries. She's the kind who casually chats about her dates with her boss.

"One Monday, she showed up to work with long stick-on nails, excited to show them off," Lillian told me, laughing. "I didn't realise what was coming until she said she couldn't work that day because of her nails—and asked me to do her chores instead!" I burst out laughing. A house help trying to turn Lillian into one in her own home! Of course, Lillian had to put her foot down and remind her where the boundaries lay.

Every household seems to have a story. What's yours?

There is clearly no one-size-fits-all approach when it comes to what should be acceptable and what shouldn't be when interacting with domestic staff. The truth is, behind these funny stories are young women navigating difficult circumstances, and we should never forget that.

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**Voicemale** Steeped in symbolism and mentorship, her bond with Raila suggests a deliberate grooming for leadership

# A daughter shaped by politics, legacy, and love faces her defining moment



Dr Okumba Miruka

**I**f there is one question in the minds of Kenyans about the Raila Odinga succession, it is whether his daughter Winnie is his heir apparent. This is based on a number of facts. She is his most visible child, demonstrated in her physical and abrasive presence during the 2022 presidential campaigns. That she was nominated to the East African Legislative Assembly by her father's political party is a clear indication of preparation for a political career. She was obviously her father's darling, going by the public intimacy between them and her presence at critical moments in his life. Take, for example, the statement that he died in her arms in India.

In African traditional belief system, parents usually summon their favourite children to their bedsides in their final moments, ostensibly to hand over the mantle. Call it superstition, but these things have symbolic and practical significance.

The rapport between Raila and Winnie brings to mind the "Daddy's Girl" phenome-

non, a reference to the strong bond between a daughter and father, often characterised by affection, admiration and a sense of protection. This concept is associated with the attachment theory, that daughters who form secure attachments with the paterfamilias often develop higher self-esteem, better emotional regulation and healthier relationships in life. In other words, a father's involvement influences a girl's sense of self, confidence and even career aspirations.

In African cosmology, it is also believed that naming a child after a particular person is an act of transferring the latter's spirit and character to the former. As revealed by Ida Odinga, Winnie was named after Winnie Madikizela Mandela, the iconic wife of the South African freedom fighter and later president Nelson Mandela. Winnie kept

the Mandela name alive for the 27 years of his incarceration. She had an electrifying personality quite independent of her husband's own. Thus, she forged her own identity as a fierce anti-apartheid crusader and lethal community mobiliser. This stood her in good ground even when their marriage broke down. The divorce did not condemn her into oblivion but she defiantly rose above it till her death. No word summarises her better than "indomitable".

Winnie Odinga has so far displayed unparalleled composure during mourning, indicating the kind of steel she has gathered from being her father's understudy and confidante. One cannot gainsay what political wisdom and secrets the father shared with her and how she will eventually unleash them, should she tread the same political path, which is more probable than not. Would she become Kenya's Winnie Mandela?

The intricate relationship between Winnie Odinga and Raila was captured in her declaration that he was both her father and super-hero, ending in the dilemma of "I don't know who I'll miss more - my dad or my superhero".

A super-hero is "a fictional character who possesses extraordinary powers or abilities and uses them to protect others and fight evil". In the word, Winnie simultaneously captured Raila's magical powers that

endeared him to millions and made him impossible to ignore as well as his democratic and human rights credentials.

A superhero is admired and emulated even if one is not able to rise to his or her level. In these words, Winnie signalled that her father's larger than life profile would be her inspiration. The political intentions are perhaps hidden in the proverbial statement that "the spirit of the lion roars on forever, the King is dead, but long live the crown". An allusion to the British tradition of showing that the death of the king (The King is dead. Long live the King) does not create a vacuum, the statement indicates that Raila's demise should not be construed to mean the end of his political influence.

Note the parallelism that it is Winne who carried the father's favourite fedora hat (crown for all you care) from India and handed it over to the mother in that heart-breaking moment of acceptance that the enigma was no more.

Winnie is already in the political arena, joining a growing list of daughters following their fathers' footsteps now and in other eras. At the local level, she joins: her own aunt, Ruth Odinga- Kisumu County Women Representative; Susan Kihika, Governor of Nakuru County; Wavinya Ndeti, Machakos Governor; and Gladys Wanga, Governor of Homa Bay. At the African level is Samia Nkrumah and Zanetor Agyeman-Rawlings, both of Ghana. Extra-African examples are Indira Gandhi of India, Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, Sara Duterte of the Philippines, and Liz Cheney and Ivanka Trump, both of the United States of America.

Should Winnie Odinga decide to enter elective Kenyan politics, would the Odinga name and fame be an asset or liability for her? Watch this space.

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The late Raila Odinga's daughter Winnie Odinga eulogizes her father during the state funeral service held on October 17, 2025 at the Nyayo



**Behind medals and glory** Dozens of female athletes in Rift Valley training camps describe a pattern of sexual abuse, c

BY KAMAUMAICHUHIE

The high-altitude air bites sharper as dusk settles over Iten. At 2,400 metres above sea level, this unassuming town in Rift Valley has earned a name that echoes across continents: The Home of Champions. Every morning, before first light, the roads come alive with rhythmic footfalls—world-beaters in the making, their breath misting in the thin air. But as the sun dips below the escarpment and shadows lengthen across the training grounds, another story unfolds, one whispered behind closed doors and carried in silence.

Lorna Cheptoo\* sits across from us this chilly evening, her gaze fixed somewhere beyond the window, lost in deep thought, perhaps pondering a disturbing matter. This athlete has won many races locally and internationally, carrying Kenya's flag with pride. Her journey began like so many others. She started pursuing her running career while in primary school, representing her school in many competitions. In 2016, she started training in Ngong' before eventually making her way to Iten. Coming from a humble background, she was full of expectations, hoping that Iten would give her the platform to become an international athlete.

Once in Iten and determined to excel in athletics, Lorna started training on her own. "I got a tiny room where I started sleeping on the ground," she tells *the Voice* in Iten town. "I had to do a side job at a hotel, washing dishes to make ends meet."

After the Covid-19 lockdown, Lorna thought she had hit a jackpot when a renowned coach approached her in Iten and volunteered to coach her. "The coach told me he had been observing me doing my training and noted that I was talented and had a promising future in athletics. He offered to help me realise my dreams. I was elated—it was like music to my ears," she says.

The training started well and went on as planned, giving her hope that her dream of becoming a renowned athlete in Kenya was well on course. However, as fate would have it, her dream went haywire after the coach started making sexual advances. She recalls one incident: "One evening after training, the coach offered to drop me home, and just before we got near my house, he stopped the car and started caressing me against my will," Lorna says, tears streaming down her face. "He said if I wanted him to fix me in upcoming races, I had to sleep with him. I told him I would never trade my body for my career, and he threw me out of his car, saying he would 'delete' my life."

That marked the end of his training assistance. Afterwards, Lorna encountered two other coaches who demanded sexual favours in exchange for training assistance or a slot in upcoming races. "Sexual abuse and harassment is rife here in Iten, and the majority of those affected are female athletes," she says. "I have four friends who have been sexually abused. They are world champions, but they cannot dare report the matter for fear of being victimised and the stigma that comes with it."



Athletes warm up before taking part in an evening run in Iten, Elgeyo Marakwet County, on October 7, 2025. PHOTOS | WILFRED NYANGARESI | NATION

# Sex for slots

## The scandal staining Kenya's 'Home of Champions'

For the past seven years, Lorna, who specialises in cross-country and marathon, has participated in 34 races, bagging four gold, four silver, and two bronze medals. She did not report the sexual harassment to the police, saying she was not sure any action would be taken.

### A parallel story

The experience for Doris Wanjiru\* carries an unsettling familiarity. The 25-year-old 5,000 and 3,000 metres runner was optimistic about becoming a world champion when she made her way to Iten three years ago. She started training on her own and in the company of fellow runners. She was over the moon after several coaches approached her, having seen that she had great potential. However, her encounters with coaches only dampened her spirit. She could not cope with their demands. "All three coaches who approached me with a promise to helping me train had one thing in common—they all wanted to sleep with me, promising to help me secure training items like shoes, food, and rent," Doris recounts. "When I said no, they all disappeared. In fact, one of them told me I would never make it in athletics for pretending to be a 'holy Joe'."

She says many young athletes harbouring ambitions of becoming world champions are grappling with myriad challenges, with sexual harassment and abuse topping the list. Those who reject advances are side-

lined and denied a chance to train or be slotted for upcoming races.

These two cases are just the tip of the iceberg of rampant cases of sexual harassment and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) that female athletes face in Iten—some of which have degenerated into femicide.

### Three names, three tragedies

In October 2021, Agnes Tirip's name should have been in headlines for her athletic prowess—the two-time world championships bronze medalist had established herself as one of Kenya's finest distance runners. Instead, at just 25, she was found dead at her home in Iten, allegedly stabbed by her husband.

The body of the celebrated athlete was discovered with a stab wound at their home in the athletics training hub. The following month, Ibrahim Rotich, her husband, was charged with her murder. He denied the charges. The High Court in Eldoret later released him on bond of Sh400,000, with surety of a similar amount, or Sh500,000 bail.

Six months later, in April 2022, another athlete's life was violently cut short. Damaris Muthee Mutua, a Kenyan athlete running for Bahrain, was found murdered in a house in Iten—the same training base where champions are made and dreams are pursued. Police identified her Ethiopian boyfriend as a suspect after he allegedly confessed to the killing. Fellow athletes alerted authorities after the



A survivor of sexual violence displays some of the medals she has won, symbolising resilience and strength, during the interview in Iten, Elgeyo Marakwet County, on October 8.

alleged killer called from outside the country, saying he had committed the murder. A postmortem revealed she had been strangled. The suspect had fled with her documents: ID cards and bank papers.

Then came September 2024, and the news that sent shockwaves beyond Kenya's borders. Rebecca Cheptegi, a 33-year-old Ugandan marathon runner who had competed in the Paris Olympics, was rushed to hospital after being doused with petrol and set afire by an ex-boyfriend. The attack left her with extensive burns. A few days later, at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, Eldoret, where she had been admitted to the ICU, Rebecca succumbed

to her 80 per cent burns. The burns had damaged most of her organs. The former boyfriend also sustained burn injuries during the attack and was admitted to the same ICU facility with about 30 per cent burns.

The number of female athletes harassed and attacked because of their gender or, in worse cases, murdered in mysterious circumstances by people allegedly close to them has been on the increase. Several high-profile SGBV cases have been targeting athletes. Here in Iten, many female athletes admitted being victims of both sexual violence but were too afraid or traumatised to speak up.

### What the numbers reveal

Unesco reports that globally, 21 per cent of female athletes report experiencing a form of sexual abuse. Too often, these abuses go unreported, with only seven per cent of women disclosing the violence they face—usually due to fear of stigmatisation, exclusion, and reprisal. While some progress has been made through safeguarding policies, significant legislative gaps remain worldwide.

Athletics training camps have been cited as having one of the highest prevalence of SGBV. A report of a survey conducted in October 2020 by the ministerial committee on gender welfare and equity in sports revealed that up to 57 per cent of female athletes suffer abuse in training camps.

## Persecution, and financial exploitation by coaches and agents, with few reporting their cases, fearing stigma or career loss

### AT A GLANCE VIOLENCE

The murders of top runners like Agnes Tirop, Damaris Muthee, and Rebecca Cheptegei reveal, violence against women athletes has reached alarming levels. New safeguarding protocols and local interventions offer hope—but only if the culture of silence can finally be broken.

Young women runners are confronting a chilling reality: gender-based violence at the hands of those meant to guide them.



A survivor of sexual violence during the interview on October 8.

idents of SGBV in sports.

#### The view from authority

For Elgeyo Marakwet County Commissioner Julius Maiyo, the deaths of female athletes—particularly Agnes Tirop's murder—served as a wake-up call to enhance security inside and outside the camps. He identifies intimate partner violence as the major cause of GBV among athletes, adding that some people masquerading as coaches are also to blame.

"We are working with the county government and the County Gender Sector Working Group to explore ways to enhance the security of the athletes," he says. "We have also partnered with Tirop Angels to create awareness against GBV among the athletes and in the community."

He notes the need to streamline coaching and ensure only coaches accredited by Athletics Kenya conduct coaching. On financial exploitation, the administrator notes that athletes make a lot of money, but many people, including their partners and friends, normally take advantage. "They lack the requisite financial literacy that is paramount to help them use their money prudently. There is a lot of exploitation of athletes financially by many people, including their families," he says.

Iten Sub-County Police Commander Patrick Njoroge shares Maiyo's assessment. Cases of SGBV among athletes have been on the increase, he says. This year alone, six cases of SGBV among athletes have been reported. Tirop Angels, a lobby fighting the scourge among athletes, documented six cases of sexual violence in June. Most victims and survi-

vors do not report to the authorities, Njoroge notes. Exonerating the police from blame, he points to interference from families and friends, leading to lack of justice for survivors.

"Most of the time when there are such cases, the athletes are approached by coaches and agents and warned that if they continue pursuing the matter, they will be thrown out of the training camps and also miss out on being fixed in races," Njoroge says. "Out of fear of being victimised, they usually withdraw the cases, and as the police, there is nothing we can do at that point."

He says many GBV cases among athletes are not reported, as many female runners depend on agents or their male colleagues for training and upkeep. Records from authorities indicate Iten is home to more than 6,000 athletes—both Kenyans and foreigners who throng the town for training. Iten is considered ideal for training, given its high altitude.

#### Where justice struggles

Even when athletes attempt to seek justice, systemic obstacles stand in their way. Reporting mechanisms within sports federations and training camps are weak or compromised by conflicts of interest, particularly when investigations involve high-ranking officials. Victim-blaming is rampant, with survivors questioned about their behaviour rather than the actions of perpetrators.

Many survivors hesitate to report abuse due to concerns about being sidelined, losing sponsorships, or facing public stigma. Without protections, athletes who speak out risk their careers, leaving abusive sys-

tems unchallenged. Many training camps lack well-documented safeguarding policies, leaving room for exploitation and abuse.

Many training camps also lack accountability mechanisms, particularly within their management structures. This weakness creates gaps in oversight, making it difficult to enforce safeguard policies, address misconduct, or ensure transparency in decision-making.

The United Nations Population Fund and the Centre for Enhancing Democracy and Good Governance (CEDGG) have been working on Standard Operating Procedures (Sops) aimed at detecting, preventing, and responding to GBV and sexual exploitation and abuse (Sea) in athletics training camps. The guidelines primarily focus on legal and psychosocial clinics for athletes and technical support for integrating safeguarding protocols into athletic camps' governance structures.

The absence of clear detection, prevention, and response guidelines for GBV in training camps was identified as a significant gap fuelling this crisis. Three camps have taken the lead in implementation: Kiprun 42 House Camp, Nzimaheart Runners Camp, and Iten Athletics Training Camp have adopted safeguarding policies tailored to their contexts.

Paul Masese, Executive Director at CEDGG, says these guidelines, aligned with international best practices, reflect a clear zero-tolerance stance against GBV and Sea, and have established formalised reporting mechanisms, accountability frameworks, and preventive protocols. For the training camps, sports clubs, and organisations, Masese says the guidelines mean effective safeguarding policies and procedures, codes of conduct for all participants within the athletics ecosystem, safe recruitment processes, and relevant training for staff and volunteers.

"Sops provide a comprehensive framework to prevent and respond to GBV, including technology-facilitated GBV and sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment in athletics training camps in Kenya's North Rift Region," Masese tells the Voice.

The Sops draw on existing regulatory frameworks and international best practice to address a range of issues, he explains, including traditional forms of GBV and emerging threats like technology-facilitated violence, cyberbullying, harassment, and non-consensual sharing of private images. The guidelines outline

*We are working with partners to provide counselling to athletes who have been affected by sexual violence*

George Obumba



clear procedures for reporting, investigation, and support, ensuring a survivor-centred approach. Dr Byron Kipchumba, a coach at Kiprun 42 House Training Camp, agrees that Iten has become notorious for rampant cases of GBV among athletes.

Dr Kipchumba reveals that money is playing a great role in enhancing GBV in athletics but also blames some coaches for being enablers by taking advantage of vulnerable and innocent female runners. "Lack of financial literacy and education is a key driver of GBV among athletes in Iten," he notes. "Cultural differences by virtue of having foreign runners is also in a way enhancing the vice."

He hails the development of the new guidelines, terming them a game-changer in the management of GBV in athletics. To ensure such cases do not arise, Dr Kipchumba says his training camp has guidelines that must be followed by staff, management, and athletes. He advises parents to take responsibility for their children-cum-young athletes, because if they fail, men will take advantage, which may lead to GBV.

George Obumba, the Chief Sports Officer for Elgeyo Marakwet, acknowledges SGBV among athletes has been rising, adding that measures are being put in place to tame the menace. The issue has been amplified by the fact that the majority of athletes are not in training camps, hence are hard to monitor, he explains. Currently, about 25 athletics training camps exist in Iten, a majority of which are privately owned, with some by foreigners. No public training camp is run by the government through the Ministry of Sports or Athletics Kenya. Mr Obumba notes that to tame the rising cases of SGBV among athletes, there is a need to enhance capacity building through training of coaches and managers to help them manage the sport better.

"We are working with partners to provide counselling to athletes who have been affected by sexual violence," he says. "Plans are underway to come up with a safe space where victims or survivors can seek refuge."

Elgeyo Marakwet is coming up with two sports academies to help in the development of sports, with athletics included, he reveals. The county has also developed a sports policy that mostly focuses on athletics management, including licensing of training camps and development of sports, which entails how sportsmen can be nurtured and trained.

To rein in financial exploitation of athletes, Mr Obumba says proper financial literacy for athletes is need-

ed to prevent them from becoming vulnerable and victims of rogue agents. "Financial literacy is paramount to enable them to conduct negotiations effectively without being duped. They need to be trained in better financial management and negotiation to help them get the best deals without being short-changed."

Joseph Amuke, the county gender officer, shares the same concerns about the rising cases of sexual violence among athletes. He observes that they mostly get to know about the cases when they have already happened, as many of them occur outside the training camps. Amuke says Sops will be instrumental in detection, prevention, and response to SGBV in and out of training camps.

"All the training camps must adhere to the newly developed Sops," he says. "It clearly stipulates where and how to report cases, and where to get help. This will ensure our athletes are safe, not exploited."

He identifies the lack of a rescue centre in the county as a major factor impeding the fight against the menace. To eradicate this scourge, Mr Amuke is proposing an elaborate male engagement campaign that will help create awareness on sexual violence. "There is a need to create awareness among men, as they are mainly the perpetrators," he says. "We need to use men to fight GBV by converting them to prevent GBV."

Besides SGBV, athletes grapple with financial exploitation by rogue agents or managers. Gladys Chemutai, a 29-year-old marathoner, has lived this reality. In the past, she won bronze in several international marathons but ended up not getting even a penny, she says.

"In one instance, I was supposed to get Sh400,000, but I only got Sh20,000," Gladys says. "When I followed up, I was told they had used the money for air tickets, accommodation, and meals. Ideally, the agent is only supposed to take 15 per cent of the money as the agreement entailed. I felt cheated and exploited, but there was nothing I could do."

Gladys, an international marathon champion, has fallen victim to financial exploitation three times in total, with agents and coaches behind it. "Many athletes here are undergoing financial exploitation but cannot dare speak up as they fear being victimised," she says. "It is very bad to work that hard and have someone else eat your sweat."

The reason many athletes fall victims to coaches and agents is a lack of money, the marathoner explains.

"You can opt to go directly for international races, but many of them do not have money. The agents, on the other hand, provide all the logistical support, including training facilities, and deduct their money later."

The races Gladys has won in the recent past include the Leiden Marathon in the Netherlands in 2023 and the Linz Marathon in Austria in 2022. As our mission ends in Iten, one thing is evident: stringent measures are urgently needed to curb SGBV, which is threatening to curtail the dreams of many young athletes here.

\*Names changed to protect identities of the athletes.

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Marathoner Gladys Chemutai Kosgei shares insights during the interview on October 6.

Of these, 11 per cent experienced some form of sexual abuse, with 47 per cent of respondents stating they chose to suffer in silence, while only about 14 per cent reported incidents of abuse—but no action was taken.

Lack of clear guidelines for detection, prevention, and response to GBV in the camps is one of the biggest factors cited for this state of affairs. This year brought fresh evidence. In June, Aga Khan University's Graduate School of Media and Communications released a study showing that sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Kenyan sport has risen sharply over the last three years. The findings indicate that SGBV is prevalent in sports and that major perpetrators are people close to the athletes, given that coaches, team officials, and teammates account for 55 per cent of reported notorious perpetrators in East Africa.

The report shows that the prevalence of SGBV in sports is fairly high in East Africa, as 62 per cent of respondents reported either experiencing or knowing a sportsperson who had suffered SGBV in the form of verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual violence. Kenya leads with a prevalence of 69 per cent, followed by Tanzania at 62 per cent, while Uganda has the lowest at 48 per cent. When the study broke down perpetrators by category, the results were revealing: fans led with sexual abuse at 34 per cent, followed closely by coaches with 23 per cent, with teammates coming last with 14 per cent.

The study, *Exploring Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Against Women in Sports in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania*, shows that female athletes—particularly the naïve ones at the beginning of their budding sports careers and those in elite positions—are vulnerable to exploitation by coaches and officials who take advantage of the limited opportunities and abuse athletes. Athletes, managers, and administrators from more than 22 different sporting disciplines across Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania participated in the study.

The research examined the prevalence, root causes, impacts, and existing responses to SGBV within sports across East Africa. The study identified lack of awareness and education on SGBV as the most prevalent cause of SGBV in sport. Fear of retaliation and the attendant consequences on athletes' careers emerged as the top reason why athletes fail to report in-



**Defied odds** Becoming MP at 24 remains one of Kenya's most inspiring stories

# The MP who doesn't travel with bodyguards: Inside Toto's unusual leadership

Toto has evolved from a political newcomer to a determined leader fighting for women, youth, and the vulnerable

BY VITALIS KIMUTAI

A simple photograph changed everything. When Linet Chepkorir, then an ordinarily dressed young woman from a humble background, snapped a picture at a political meeting and posted it on social media, she had no idea she was about to become a national sensation. The meeting, held at then-Deputy President William Ruto's Karen residence, was packed with political aspirants. But it was the naive, fresh-faced girl in the photo who captured the nation's imagination.

The image went viral. Almost overnight, Linet—known to many simply as "Toto"—was catapulted from obscurity to the front row of Bomet and national politics. She became a poster girl for daring to dream, irrespective of background. When the dust settled on the August 9, 2022 General Election, the unthinkable had happened: at just 24 years old, she had become Kenya's youngest Member of Parliament.

Today, at 27, Bomet's woman representative sits in a Nairobi hotel for this interview, a phone and notebook in hand. No bodyguards. No motorcade. Patrons and waiters move about, seemingly unaware of the place she holds in society. It's a stark contrast to the flamboyant lifestyle of many of her House colleagues, but it's quintessentially Toto—humble, accessible, and still adjusting to the weight of her own political fairy tale.

## Unlikely campaign

The campaign trail was anything but conventional. Without a car to her name, Linet walked from village to village, occasionally catching free rides from a generous boda boda rider who ferried her to social functions and church services where she sold her policies to voters. Almost everyone rallied behind her—donating equipment, motor vehicles, money. She was the underdog everyone wanted to see win.

And she did win. Spectacularly. In a county with 376,985 registered voters, Linet secured the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) party ticket on April 14, 2022, garnering 53,924 votes in the primaries. The General Election results were even more emphatic: she bagged 242,775 votes, crush-



Bomet Woman Representative Linet Chepkorir Toto, who is serving her first term in office, on October 17. VITALIS KIMUTAI | NATION

ing her closest rival, Dr Alice Milgo of Chama Cha Mashinani, a former nominated Senator who managed only 43,180 votes—a staggering 199,595-vote difference the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission declared in Linet's favour. In a region accustomed to electing elderly politicians, choosing a 24-year-old woman rep was a feat unlikely to be erased from Bomet County's political history anytime soon. A fresh graduate from Chuka University with a Bachelor of Business Administration, conferred in 2021 months before UDA nominations, Linet had become a role model for the youth in political and professional circles.

## Reality of power

"I went to Parliament as a greenhorn, but I have learnt a lot from my senior and fellow youthful MPs on leadership, parliamentary debates and government. That has helped greatly in navigating through the labyrinth of leadership in the last three years."

The learning curve has been steep. Between adjusting to married life, motherhood, and finding her footing in the corridors of Parliament—where the national cake is sliced and shared—she has had to grow up fast. "Being a youth, my plunge into politics was to demonstrate that everything is possible and one does not need to limit himself or herself

in seeking to contribute to development and general well-being of society," she says.

But the honeymoon period is over. The shoe is now on the other foot, with voters' expectations soaring ahead of the 2027 poll. "Managing people's high expectations is a challenge because many don't understand the role of a woman representative in development," she says.

The frustration is palpable. "Voters should be sensitised that women representatives have fewer resources at their disposal from the Treasury as compared with MPs representing constituencies, while we cover an entire county just like senators and governors," she explains.

## Dreams meet reality

Her initial agenda was ambitious: create job opportunities for youth, alleviate living standards for the vulnerable, support women's groups, and improve the socio-economic status of her constituents. Reality, however, has been more complex.

"It is not practically possible to secure jobs for all in the society due to scarcity of opportunities in government and the formal sector, while the informal sector presents a huge potential for growth," she acknowledges. But there's a silver lining. "Our people, especially the youth, are starting to adjust to getting an education and joining the informal sector,

which includes being self-employed. Initially, everyone focused solely on the formal sector, but the narrative is slowly but surely changing."

She's adapting her approach. Currently, she's working on a model to provide capitation funds for Social Health Assurance (SHA) for 500 vulnerable homesteads—20 in each of Bomet's 25 wards. "It has emerged that there are several vulnerable members of the public who are unable to access medication due to inability to pay for SHA medical cover, thus the need to come to their rescue in the current financial year."

## Misunderstood mandate

In many counties, female voters feel entitled to assistance from their women reps—donations for fund-raising, hospital bills, school fees, funeral expenses, and personal problems. The process of resource allocation from the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (Ngaaf) remains poorly understood, with some voters thinking it's the woman rep's personal responsibility to pick and allocate funds to groups.

"I am aware that questions have been raised over the high number of tents and chairs allocated to benefiting groups in the five constituencies—Bomet East, Bomet Central, Chepalungu, Sotik and Konoin—yet it is the beneficiaries who have applied for it," Linet clarifies. "It is not

in my place to choose what a group is given as I have absolutely no role in making that decision. A group applies for what the members have agreed on and upon vetting and allocation by the Ngaaf board, I only come in to distribute the funds and the equipment."

The equipment distributed tells a story of grassroots enterprise: posho mills, car wash machines, chick incubators, barber and sewing machines, construction equipment like wheelbarrows and hammers. Yet, demand far outstrips supply. "In the recent allocations, 3,000 groups applied for funding in Bomet County, yet in the end, 24 were picked by Ngaaf as beneficiaries—a clear demonstration of the staggering numbers left out for lack of enough funds."

People with disabilities have benefited from wheelchairs, bursaries, and funds for table banking, aimed at enhancing their livelihoods and making them economically independent. Sensitisation of PWDs and other vulnerable groups to understand the Ngaaf application process are ongoing. To meet job market demands for skilled human resources, Linet is implementing programmes to train drivers, carpenters, plumbers, masons, hairdressers, beauty therapists, and workers in the food and hospitality industry. She's also encouraging residents with various skills to apply for jobs abroad under the guidance of the National Employment Authority.

## Breaking the one-term curse

Her predecessors—Dr Cecilia Ngetich and Joyce Korir—each served only one five-year term before venturing into other elective positions, where they lost at party primaries. Linet is determined to avoid their fate. "I am not changing political lanes as I will be seeking re-election in the 2027 election so I can continue to implement my development roadmap for the people of Bomet County," she declares.

It's a bold statement in a region known for its impatient electorate, which routinely elects MPs for one term, kicks them out, then sometimes recycles them after realising the replacements took too long to adapt and roll out development.

"It is important for our people to change tact and elect their leaders for more than one term so they can make meaningful contributions to development by completing projects and programmes they have initiated," she argues. In areas where MPs have been re-elected, better development is realised because office holders aren't starting from scratch after an election but building on their existing roadmap. "It takes a long time for first-term legislators to learn the ropes of parliamentary business, government functions and establish a strong network. Unfortunately, when one has just found bearing, they are bundled out instead of being re-elected—a cycle I hope to overcome in the next general election."

With Parliament being the heartbeat of resource sharing through various committees, senior members who've mastered lobbying are more versatile than first-term colleagues in pitching for a piece of the national cake. It's standard practice for senior MPs to chair committees based on their experience, while first-termers serve as ordinary members.

On suggestions that the woman rep position should be scrapped, Linet is unequivocal. "The suggestion is misplaced, misinformed and should simply not be entertained by Kenyans. To the contrary, the position should be strengthened and allocated more resources to at least match what goes into constituencies under the Constituency Development Fund so that women leaders can deliver on their mandate."

## Voices from the ground

Emily Chepngetich, a resident of Kembu Ward, believes Linet needs to do more to secure re-election in 2027. "A high number of candidates, some with grassroots following that cannot be ignored, have declared their interest to run against her in the next election and she will have the disadvantage of incumbency, thus the need to put double efforts in delivering on her agenda."

Kenneth Towett, a youth from Kiperer Ward, takes a more sympathetic view. "When we voted her in, we were all aware that she was young and had an opportunity to learn, and she has done a great job at it, performing to the expectations of her constituents. She deserves support and not condemnation in areas that need improvement."

Betty Kirui, a teacher from Konoin, sees the emerging competition as inevitable. "The high number of candidates seeking to dislodge the woman representative from her position is a clear indication of the competitive nature that the position will attract moving forward."

Joyce Chemutai, a trader in Sotik, offers a different perspective on voter responsibility. "As a people, we should support leaders to deliver on their mandate and stop relying on them to sort out our personal issues including dishing out handouts, paying for our medical bills, school fees for our children and upkeep as that is not part of their job descriptions."

But in a society where voters look to politicians for solutions to socio-economic issues, Linet, like her fellow MPs, must grapple with a restless electorate's myriad challenges to remain politically relevant. "Many of my colleagues in Parliament have been branded underperformers yet they don't have the means to reach out to voters in many areas and sort their ever-growing challenges."

## A legacy beyond age

The ripple effects of Linet's election extend beyond her personal story. Many youths have declared interest in elective positions in the next poll—a sign that age may no longer be a barrier in future. Her victory has given young people the impetus to seek leadership positions and solve problems facing them, rather than leaving it to the elderly and often more experienced politicians.

"I am grateful to the people of Bomet for the trust they bestowed on me and I will continuously strive to put my best foot forward in serving them," she says.

As for her mandate, Linet is convinced of one thing: "For one to fully deliver in leadership, he or she will require more than one term, as there are clear records that those who have been re-elected have gone on to be great leaders."

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**Trailblazer** She commands matches with calm authority as one of only a handful of female referees in Kenya

# Whistle of green change: The woman transforming rugby to a climate mission

At just 25, Esther Nyawira Nyambura is redefining what leadership looks like in Kenya's rugby fields

BY GEOFFREY ANENE

The whistle cuts through the heat like a blade. Under the scorching sun at the 2025 Federation of Africa University Sports (Fasu) Rugby Sevens Championship at KCB Ruaraka Sports Club in Nairobi, bodies freeze mid-stride. Heads turn. At the centre of the field stands a composed figure, whistle poised, eyes steady and unwavering. Twenty-five-year-old Esther Nyawira Nyambura commands the pitch—not with size or volume, but with something quieter and far more powerful: presence.

"It feels good when you are there commanding, especially men," she says with a grin after the match. "You are the one giving them the commands—no, yes, or yes."

Nyambura belongs to a rare breed. In a country where rugby is played with religious fervour, there are only about eight active female rugby referees in Kenya. They navigate a world where whistles and authority have long been symbols of male dominance, where a woman in the middle of the pitch still raises eyebrows.

Yet her journey to this moment began far from any stadium, in a quiet corner of Dagoretti, Nairobi.

"My journey began way back while in high school at Hidden Talent in Dagoretti," she recalls. "It is a children's home kind of setting. That is where I joined rugby, though I didn't play it professionally."

At the institution, Nyambura played scrum-half, the lively number nine position where quick thinking and sharp communication rule the day. But after school, she stepped away from rugby. She tried baseball first, until the Covid-19 pandemic slowed everything down.

"After Covid, baseball was a bit slow," she says. "That is when I fully transitioned to rugby. I have loved rugby since high school. That school exposed us to sports so much. I just loved the unity, the discipline, the commitment. I felt like that's where I belong."

In rugby, she found more than sport. She found structure, integrity, something that resonated in her bones. "There is a lot of discipline in rugby," she says. "And even fairness. You just feel happy, like you are doing the right thing."

## Day everything nearly fell apart

Nyambura's officiating journey began in 2022. Her first match as a



Esther Nyambura on the sidelines of the 2025 Federation of Africa University Sports Rugby Sevens Championship in Nairobi on October 4-5. PHOTOS: GEOFFREY ANENE

centre referee was a Women's Kenya Cup game—a match that nearly broke her spirit. "It was my first ever game as a centre referee," she remembers. "The players decided to walk off the pitch while the game wasn't over. They said they wanted another referee. That broke my heart."

It would have been easy to quit. To hand back the whistle and walk away, convinced that this world was not meant for her. But she didn't. "I decided to be courageous and trust myself," she says. "The support from my Coaches of Match Officials and fellow referees kept me going. You like a place where you are growing, and that's why I'm still here."

Two years on, she has officiated more than 30 matches—from Women's Kenya Cup games to Nationwide Men's fixtures, and on to the National Sevens Circuit, where she handled her first-ever finals in Nakuru during the Prinsloo Sevens. In 2025, she took charge of the bronze final at the Dala Sevens in Kisumu. "That was huge for me," she says proudly.

Her consistency paid off when she was named Most Promising Lady Referee at the end of the 2024-2025 season—an award she didn't see coming. "That award came as a surprise," she says. "But I had put in a lot of work. From training with clubs, reviewing my games every Tuesday, and setting clear objectives with my CMO. It all led to that moment."

## Making history on home soil

Her eyes light up when she recalls another milestone—officiating the Nationwide play-offs final between Nation Youth Service (NYS) and Administration Police (AP), the first-ever all-lady officiated final in Kenyan rugby. "I didn't believe it at first," she laughs. "It was my best moment because it was history—an all-lady team, from the centre referee to the in-goal."

## Balancing books and whistle

Away from the pitch, Nyambura wears another hat: accountant at Power Governors Limited, a company dealing in vehicle telematics.

"I'm an accountant by profession," she says. "I have a degree in finance from KCA University, and I'm planning to pursue a second one, maybe even a master's later."

Her employer, she says, has been incredibly supportive. "They know I engage in rugby, so they always give me time to go do what I love."

Refereeing mostly happens on weekends, allowing her to juggle her professional life, family, and another passion that has become her mission: environmental conservation.

## Tries for trees

"I love nature," Nyambura says, her face softening. "I love the environment. I love plants. I just love everything to do with making the environment better."

Her love for nature inspired the creation of 'Tries for Trees', an initiative that merges rugby and reforestation in a way that is as simple as it is brilliant. "Sports is like a community. People come together with unity of purpose," she explains.

"So we decided to plant trees equivalent to the tries made during a tournament."

The initiative has seen trees planted with Kenyatta University, Kabras Sugar RFC, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Zetech University and Lenana School. "Our goal is to plant more than 50,000 trees by 2026," she says. "We've partnered with Ngong Forest. The Kenya Forest Service even donates seedlings when we explain what we're doing."

She emphasises that it's not just about planting, but about education too. "We teach players why we've planted certain trees like Jacaranda for shade or indigenous species that support life. We don't just want to plant; we want to sustain."

## Dreams beyond borders

Nyambura's dream stretches far beyond Kenya's borders. "My dream is to one day officiate outside Kenya, Africa, in world rugby," she says. "And to have this environmental aspect recognised globally. Imagine having an award for the club that supports the environment—a sports trees award!"

She lights up at the thought. "It would motivate clubs to plant more trees, to give back to the earth that gives us the air we breathe."

## The weight of breaking barriers

Her path, however, has not been easy. "Officiating has a lot of challenges," she admits. "This is a male-dominated field. You have to be at par with men. Your fitness level has to be high. You have to be consistent."

And then there is the stigma. "Sometimes people see you and say, 'Oh, you're the one officiating?'" They still doubt when they see it's a lady," she says. "But things are changing. People are beginning to see that even ladies can officiate the game."

Tree planting, too, has its hurdles. "We lack enough space," she says. "That's why we work with schools and universities. And of course, funding. When you say you are planting trees, you have to facilitate everything yourself."

## A day in her boots

At the 2025 Fasu Africa Sevens Championship in Nairobi, her day begins early. "I packed my bag the night before—boots, three pairs of kit, socks—because you never know when teams might clash in colours," she says.

She wakes at dawn, hydrates, eats a heavy breakfast, and arrives at the venue an hour before kick-off. "Games are back-to-back, so timing is everything. Afterwards, I stretch and rest for the next day."

Keeping fit is non-negotiable. "We train with teams, and our strength and conditioning coach gives us endurance drills. You have to keep your body ready."

## The people who keep her going

Behind her determination is a strong support system. "My family's support is huge," she says. "They always ask me, 'You don't have a game today?' That pushes me."

Although her family is not deeply rooted in sports, Nyambura believes she is starting a new sporting generation. "I know my generation will be sporty people," she says proudly.

She also dreams of starting her own family. "I'm planning to," she says softly. Her inspiration to be a referee came from another woman in the middle of the pitch. "I remember seeing Faith Mulongo officiate a game," she says. "I was inspired just seeing her inside the pitch."

Her current role models are Precious Pazani of Zimbabwe and Aimee Barrett-Theron of South Africa. "They've broken barriers," Nyambura says. "Even if I don't reach where they are, I'll try my best to align my goals and work toward them."

## When sport and climate collide

For Nyambura, climate change is not just a buzzword. It is a visible, physical concern for athletes. "Climate affects sportspeople," she explains. "Some fields are so hot you can't even breathe. Trees help us get fresh air and shade. Look at Iten—full of trees, fresh air, and top athletes."

She hopes Kenya's sports community will take the environment seriously. "If we cut a tree, let's plant five more," she says firmly. "It's about the generations to come."

## The worst and the best

Her worst moment remains that first game—when the players walked off. "I even told my supervisor, 'I don't want to officiate anymore,'" she says. "But then I decided—this will not be my last moment."

Her best? "Being told I was officiating the nationwide finals—and realising it was an all-lady team. That was history. That was pride."

"To anyone looking up to me, understand what you want to do, and align yourself with the right people. Nothing comes easy. You have to study, train, and plan."

Her message to women is powerful and unequivocal: "Ladies, the sky is the limit. Don't shy off from what makes you happy. Be courageous and believe in yourself. Have a role model who knows you and an accountability partner who walks with you. And don't procrastinate—plan."

As the sun dips over the field, Nyambura's whistle echoes one last time before the players walk off, sweat and mud on their faces. Later, she will trade her boots for a shovel, planting another tree in honour of every try scored, every new beginning.

For her, rugby and the environment are not separate worlds. They are two sides of the same fight—for fair play and a future worth breathing for. "My dream is to see trees grow and to know that I have made the world a little better."

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*I love nature. I love the environment. I love plants. I just love everything to do with making the environment better. Sports is like a community. People come together with unity of purpose*

Esther Nyambura



## Legal Eye Father cannot legally get a child outside Kenya without a mother's consent



## Help! My British ex-boyfriend wants to sell our home and relocate overseas with our son

**Dear Vivian,**  
Seventeen years ago, I met a British man online, we got into a relationship, bought land in Nakuru and built. We later had a son, who is now 15. We then separated immediately after his birth. We have an existing agreement to co-parent. He was given physical custody, but he now wants to relocate with our son to Ireland. I have also heard that he intends to sell our home. What can I do?  
Sarah Naserian,  
Nakuru



Vivian Mwende

il suit seeking a declaration of beneficial interest or constructive trust. This means asking the court to recognise that part of the land rightfully belongs to you because of your long-term occupation, contribution, and the fact that it has served as your family home.

Notably, Kenyan courts have recognised this principle where long occupation and proven contribution within a relationship created a beneficial interest enforceable by law.

The courts have powers to issue orders stopping the sale and can direct that a portion of the land be registered in your name or held in trust for your benefit and that of your child.

On the issue of child support, the man remains legally responsible for your son until he turns 18, whether you relocate or not. The Children Act places parental responsibility on both parents, regardless of their marital status. This means each parent must provide for the child's needs according to their ability and income.

Additionally, the Act affirms that parent with responsibility cannot relocate a child outside Kenya without the consent of the other parent or a court order. If a parental responsibility agreement is in place, the parent with whom the child lives must seek written consent from the other parent, or apply to the court for permission to relocate.

Failure to obtain consent or court approval may constitute child abduction, which is a criminal offence under the Penal Code.

Vivian

The author is an advocate of the High Court of Kenya and award-winning civil society lawyer (wakililegaleye@gmail.com).

## Good Read Her fearless advocacy for women's rights and political inclusion began long before Independence

# The untold story of how Phoebe Asiyo, Raila fought 50 years for gender equality

In 1952, the state of emergency declared by colonial governor Sir Evelyn Baring yielded the displacement of thousands of African children. Phoebe Asiyo, then an aspiring nurse, applied for a social work position advertised in the City Press by the municipal council. Her occupational mandate included improving the welfare of displaced children in Bahati, Baba Dogo, Ruaraka, Ololua, Kiserian, and Ngong, who had been ostracised by the conflict.

She used a bicycle to commute to all the areas and eventually bought a Vespa Scooter and helmet to speed her inspections. In December 1958, Phoebe's advocacy as a social worker compelled her meteoric ascension to becoming Kenya's greatest purveyor of gender parity.

She joined Maendeleo Ya Wanawake Organisation (Mywo) in 1953, one year after it had been created by wives of British settlers. She immediately noticed that the institution wasn't aligned to serve the needs of Black women. She, therefore, founded a parallel alliance in 1956 named Usalama Ya Wanawake na Watoto that directly targeted Black women and children.

Her determination led to Phoebe's election as the first black president of Mywo. She subsequently assembled a historic contingent of female leaders in 1960 and led them to Lodwar. The purpose of the journey was to persuade the incarcerated Jomo Kenyatta to constitutionally allocate 50 per cent of parliamentary positions to women once he ascended to the presidency.

After Independence, Phoebe's term in Mywo ended in 1962, curtailing her aspirations of pressuring the new Kanu regime to grant women legislative representation in decision-making platforms. Her grievance was compounded by the Kenyatta regime's lack of goodwill, which resulted in the replacement of the regional constitution with a unitary one, making Kenya a de facto one-party state. Over the next 40 years, the Kenyan constitution was "eroded" through amendments by Kanu to legalise a litany of self-interested decisions while failing to implement vital domestic policies on gender integration.

In June 1966, Amendment Number Six to the Preservation of Public Security Act allowed for detention without trial. The most consequential victim of that act would be a young Magdeburg College of Advanced Technology graduate named Raila Odinga.

When he returned from his studies in Leipzig, Germany, in

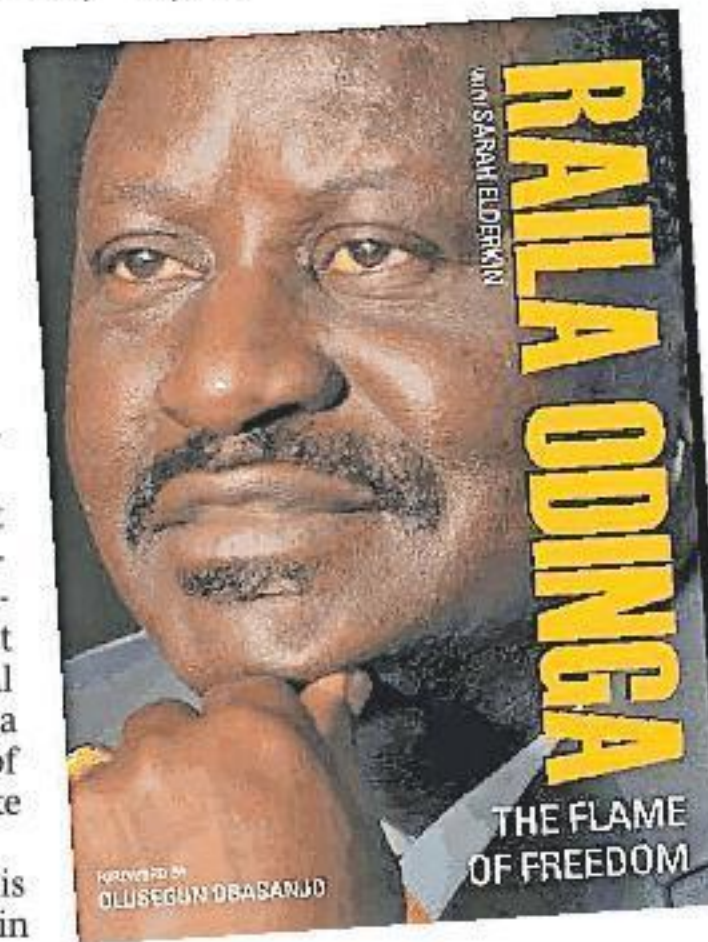


Jeff Anthony

1970, Raila was under constant surveillance by the Special Branch. He, therefore, strategically steered clear of politics while he lectured at the School of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Nairobi. His father Jaramogi was unjustly detained in Hola, while his brother, Oburu, was completing his doctorate in statistics in Moscow.

Raila's involvement in politics could have easily resulted in his detention and, as a consequence, crippled Jaramogi's numerous businesses, including Lolwe Bus Service and Ramogi Press, all of which Raila was administering. He exerted his entrepreneurial skills by establishing Spectre and began manufacturing gas cylinders—a practical skill he had acquired from the Volkswagen factory in Wolfsburg, Germany, during his vacations from his studies. Upon realising that there wasn't a national standard against which his cylinders could be tested, Raila approached the then Kenyan Minister for Trade and Industry, James Osogo.

The interaction led to a Kenya Bureau of Standards Act being passed in Parliament in 1973, and Raila was appointed group standards manager. He travelled to the British Standards Institution in London and the US National Bureau of Standards in Gettysburg, Maryland, where he drafted the 'Standards for Standards'—a document that would guide the Bureau's work in the proceeding decades. By the time Raila was detained in the atrociously gazzeted camps of Kamiti, Naivasha, Shimo La Tewa, Manyani, and Hola, he



was already a revered reformer with an impenetrable conviction for constitutional reform. Phoebe had been a confidant to Raila's mother, Mary Juma, and often assisted her in meal preparations for guests at Jaramogi's vice-presidential residence in 1964.

She had noticed Raila's elevation into a brash, compelling politician who could instantly read a room and intuitively work any crowd with formidable showmanship. He was passionate, whip-smart, brazenly articulate, self-assured, and never at a loss for words.

After Jaramogi's funeral in February 1994, Phoebe, who was by then the MP for Karachuonyo, chairperson of Uasu, and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, convened a reconciliatory meeting of a delegation of prominent Luo politicians at her Wikondiek home. The meeting, which included Raila, reinforced the political relationship between the two reformers that would culminate in Kenya receiving a new constitution.

On April 23, 1997, Phoebe tabled the Affirmative Action Motion in Parliament, demanding a two-thirds gender rule and fair representation of women in the patriarchal August House. The motion was fiercely rejected in a Parliament that consisted of a paltry six female legislators. Raila subsequently ensured the removal of sedition legislation, paved the way for the granting of private broadcasting licenses, and solidified the freedom of speech.

He, thereafter, created a constitutional secretariat after a meeting at the Attorney General's chambers. Raila emphasises in his memoir *The Flame of Freedom* that during the selection of the expert representatives who'd produce a discussion draft for the constitutional review process, he selected Phoebe. She became one of the 12 committee members formed to draft an amendment to the act of submission.

Raila subsequently campaigned for the appointment of Yash Pal Ghai, whom he had met in the 1970s while lecturing at the UoN, to chair the constitutional review process. Phoebe proceeded with her compassionate crusade against the subjugation of women and their relegation from key decision-making forums. Her 50-year persistence was eventually embedded in the 2010 Constitution through Article 27, which stipulated that "every person is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and equal benefit of the law."

The author is a novelist, Big Brother Africa 2 Kenyan representative and founder of Jeff's Fitness Centre (@jeffbigbrother).