

By-elections:
IEBC laments politicians tried to influence poll officials **Page 6**



How officials have turned State offices into graft dens

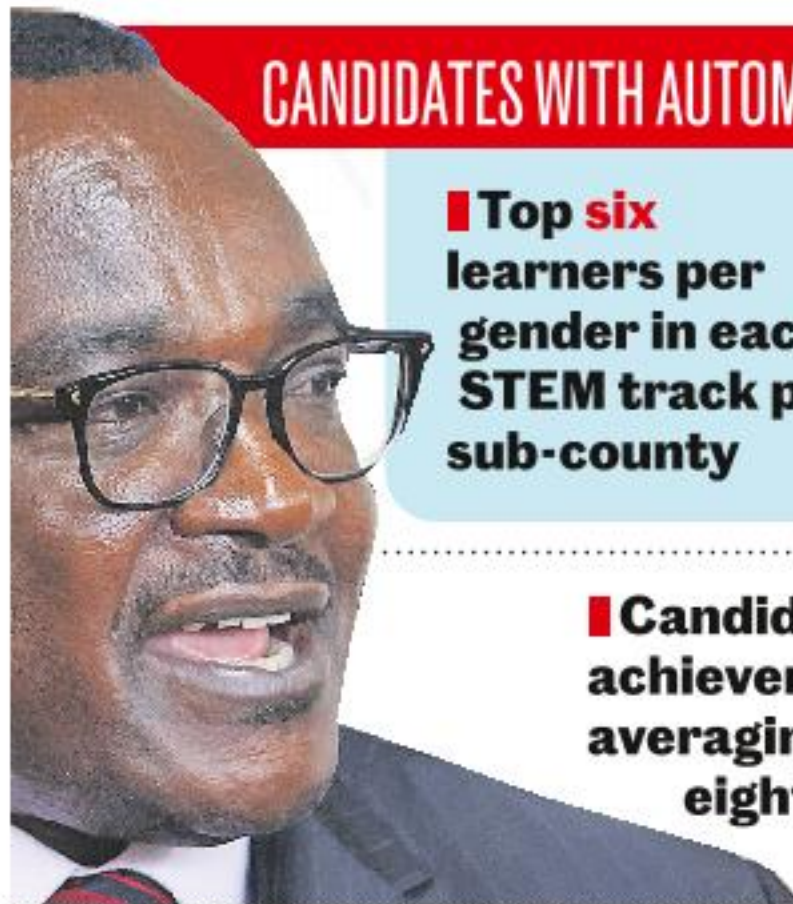
The anti-corruption agency lists dozens of ministries, agencies and counties under probe for shady deals running into billions **P.7**

DAILY NATION

Transition 1.1 million learners who completed junior school are awaiting their Grade 9 test results

Revealed: How to get top senior school slots

Grade 10 learners will know the senior schools they will join before Christmas day, with top candidates assured of their preferred schools **Page 4**



CANDIDATES WITH AUTOMATIC ADMISSION TO BOARDING SCHOOLS OF THEIR CHOICE

■ **Top six** learners per gender in each **STEM track** per sub-county

■ **Top three** learners per gender in each **Social Science track** per sub-county

■ **Top two** learners per gender in each **Arts and Sports Science track** per sub-county

■ **Candidates with achievement level averaging seven and eight per track**

■ **Transfers.** Requests to change schools to be made through the heads of junior schools at least two weeks before the official reporting date

Impact of AI on environment in focus as global meeting opens in Nairobi



Delegates follow proceedings at the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) in Nairobi yesterday. President Ruto is set to address the meeting on Thursday. **Story on Page 2**

SILA KIPLAGAT | NATION



DIPLOMACY

Kenyan activists to protest against ruthless crackdown by Suluhu's regime

Organisers have planned a procession to the Tanzanian Embassy in Nairobi in solidarity with critics of President Samia Suluhu's government / **P.10**

HealthyNation



Failing digital health revolution

Small text at the bottom of the HealthyNation section.

National News

Climate Kenya backing a resolution on amplification of the international response to address environmental crimes

Impact of AI on environment to feature at UNEA

Delegates to discuss 15 draft resolutions and three draft decisions as meeting starts

BY HELLEN SHIKANDA AND LILYS NJERU

You will probably use a form of artificial intelligence to get a summary of this article, or to understand why delegates from 193 countries are in Nairobi this week to attend the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).

UNEA is the world's highest decision-making body on matters environment. This year, among other draft decisions and resolutions, the impact of artificial intelligence on the environment, will be discussed in detail.

Draft resolutions and decisions are proposals submitted by one or more representatives from a member state or different groups.

Meeting in Nairobi's United Nations complex, delegates will discuss 15 draft resolutions and three draft decisions that speak to the theme of advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet.

This year's session will also include the approval of the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Medium-Term Strategy for the years 2026-2029, a key document that will shape UNEP's strategic direction and collective environmental action for the years ahead. This, against dwindling financial support.

According to UNEA President Abdullah Bin Ali, there has been communication with member states in order to encourage them to increase their donation to cover the financial gap that is currently crippling some functions of the United Nations.

Apart from the resolution on sustainable artificial intelligence systems, Kenya, through the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, is backing resolutions on sustainable solutions through sport, environmental decisions on antimicrobial resistance and an amplification of the international response to address environmental crimes.

Environment Cabinet Secretary Deborah Barasa told delegates during the opening session yesterday that this year's theme, "Advancing Sustainable Solutions for a Resilient Plan-

et", speaks powerfully to the moment we find ourselves in.

"The time for small, cautious steps has passed; what we need now is bold, integrated and inclusive action," she said.

"A resilient planet is much more than protecting ecosystems; it means using our resources wisely, building just and inclusive societies, ensuring that economic growth respects the boundaries of our planet, and embracing innovation to foresee and prevent harm before it happens," she added.

Evidence from scientific publications is already showing that the world is facing triple planetary crises, which encompass climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. CS Barasa says

The time for small, cautious steps has passed; what we need now is bold, integrated and inclusive action

Dr Deborah Barasa



Environment Cabinet Secretary Dr Deborah Mlango Barasa gives a speech at the Seventh Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) in Nairobi yesterday. SILA KIPLAGAT | NATION

that these challenges are unique yet deeply intertwined and are made worse by other factors, including political instability. "These crises cannot be tackled in isolation," she said.

Dr Barasa told representatives from member states that Kenya looks forward to constructively contributing to UNEP's strategic plan finalisation, ensuring that it reflects ambition, science-based policy, equity and opportunities for innovation, especially for developing countries.

Some of the draft resolutions and draft decisions to be discussed include those calling on countries to protect fast-disappearing glaciers, better manage the production of minerals and metals, and end the scourge of seaweed blooms, which are

swamping beaches around the world.

During the opening plenary, UNEP executive director Inger Andersen said that this year's Assembly must draw on its history of unity to deliver sustainable solutions for a resilient planet.

"This Assembly must dig deeper than ever, because environmental challenges are accelerating. The rise in average global temperatures will likely exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius within the next decade, bringing escalating consequences with every fraction of a degree," she said.

"Ecosystems are disappearing and land is degrading. Dust storms are intensifying. Toxins continue to pollute our air, water and land," she added.

Coming just a few weeks af-

ter COP30 in Belem, Brazil, Mr Ali told delegates that the success of UNEA-7 is anchored on commitments that "must translate into projects, investments, legal frameworks and measurable gains. Second, we need solidarity, because resilience is built together or not at all. Third, we need to be guided by science — because the reports issued by the United Nations Environment Programme show clearly that the challenges we face — on climate, on nature and biodiversity, and on pollution — although immense, they are surmountable," he said.

President Ruto is expected to address the delegates on Thursday.

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What a nuisance! Tourism players move to eradicate thousands of crows

BY MISHI GONGO AND KIM-ANIMWANGI

Coast tourism stakeholders are seeking to fast-track strategies to tackle the invasive house crow menace, which has increasingly spoiled outdoor guest experiences and tainted the region's tourism image.

An ongoing eradication programme in North Coast areas such as Watamu and Malindi has already eliminated 94,288 crows, with officials confirming that all carcasses are being collected and buried to prevent contamination of beaches and public spaces.

Survey figures show that before poisoning began, crow counts stood at 33,000 in Malindi, 19,000 in Kilifi and 12,000 in Watamu. A count in November 2025 recorded only 2,227 birds in Watamu, showing significant reduction.

However, tourism stakeholders say the invasive birds have increasingly reached destructive levels along the coastline, displacing native species, spreading pathogens and becoming a public nuisance.

Speaking in Mombasa yesterday, Mr Eric Kinoti Kiambi, coordinator of the 'Crows no more project' under Rocha Kenya,



Victoria Wanjiku of Kenya Utalii College (in purple) and Ngomeni Wanjiku (left) of the Kenya Wildlife Service lead Tourism and Wildlife CS Rebecca Miano and other dignitaries in a dance during the Kenya Tourism, Wildlife and MICE Week at the KICC in Nairobi yesterday. DENNIS ONSONGO | NATION

said the team working with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Pest Control Products Board, and county governments had adopted Starlicide (DRC 1339) as the preferred avicide for eradicating the birds

since it targets only the crows and leaves no residual poison in the carcasses.

Once ingested, the chemical breaks down within 10 to 15 hours, making it safe for scavengers and harmless in cas-

es of accidental spillage. The method involves identifying secure baiting sites away from human and livestock activity, pre-baiting for 10 to 14 days, and introducing poison only after maximum crow numbers are recorded.

"The house crow has multiplied at an alarming rate and become a serious threat to biodiversity, public health and the tourism economy. We are committed to a safe, science-based and coordinated eradication initiative," Mr Kinoti said.

Tourism stakeholders say they are pushing to fast-track the programme before the Christmas holidays. Coast Hoteliers Association Chair Dr Sam Ikwaye said the birds have increasingly frustrated visitors who come to enjoy outdoor facilities.

"When guests come to the Coast, they want an outdoor experience but many cannot enjoy it because of the birds," Dr Ikwaye said.

He said the sector needs at least Sh10 million to carry out the exercise and will hold a fundraising event on December 13 at Fort Jesus, bringing together tourism operators, county officials and conservation partners. Hotels, he added, are donating red meat daily to support baiting, but the cost remains high, indicating a huge

economical impact.

Separately, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism on Monday officially welcomed participants to the 2025 Kenya Tourism, Wildlife and MICE Week, calling the event an important platform for showcasing the country's natural heritage and conservation efforts.

Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Director General Prof Erustus Kanga said the week-long event brings together stakeholders from tourism, wildlife conservation, meetings and events management, and cultural sectors to highlight Kenya's strengths as a global destination.

The programme includes exhibitions, policy discussions, conservation briefings, and regional showcases aimed at strengthening collaboration across sectors.

The event is also expected to support ongoing efforts to promote Kenya as a competitive and responsible tourism destination.

Prof Kanga reaffirmed KWS's commitment to protecting wildlife resources and working with communities and industry partners to ensure long-term sustainability.

Suspicious Relatives say Ms Wanjiku has blocked them on chat and social media platforms

Questions emerge in engineer's death as online accounts go dark

Partner says she cremated Magotsi's body and scattered the ashes in the ocean according to his wishes

BY ELVIS ONDIEKI

Many things are not adding up for the relatives of Robert Moses Magotsi regarding his October 11 death in Mozambique's capital, Maputo.

That Saturday, he had gone on a morning run. He was known to run 21 kilometres every Saturday. That morning he also spoke with his Kenya-based cousin, Dr Joshua Amwayi, over the phone. Barely an hour after the 11.04am conversation, the latter received a call that Magotsi had died—nine days to his 55th birthday—after collapsing in his house.

There are numerous questions that Magotsi's relatives want answered, ranging from the sudden disappearance of his Facebook account, cremation without their presence, why his partner, Ms Victoria Wanjiku has blocked some of them on chat and social media platforms, and her inclusion in a 6.65 million rand (Sh50.9 million) life insurance policy that Magotsi had taken in South Africa.

Forty-two days after Magotsi's death, his relatives in Kitale, Trans Nzoia County, conducted a mock burial; they laid flowers at a spot where they would have buried his body—next to his mother Alice Limo—and erected a cross. By that time, Ms Wanjiku had posted a video on Facebook showing the disposal of his ashes in the Pacific Ocean.

"According to his wishes, his ashes now lie in the sea. The serene, endless waters of Bali received him with peace. He loved the ocean deeply, and its beauty was reflected in the life he lived," read Ms Wanjiku's caption for the video posted on November 15.

Magotsi's family is incensed because, one, the cremation happened in their absence—even without his biological children—and, secondly, they were kept in the dark regarding the disposal of the ashes in the Pacific Ocean.

Ms Wanjiku, in an interview with *Nation* on November 28, said it was Magotsi's wish to be interred as soon as possible.

Magotsi was an engineer and entrepreneur who also had interests in poetry and lecturing. He was featured in the *Saturday Nation* of October 14, 2023 after releasing his debut poetry book, "Troubled Heart", using the pen name Sankara Berhane Sellasie.

In the author's note of the book, he stated that the poems covered his interpretation of death, which he described as "the ultimate equaliser of all humans" and "an ancient embarrassment humanity has yet to contend with and conquer successfully". One of



Robert Moses Magotsi during an interview at Nation Centre in Nairobi on October 12, 2023. BONFACE BOGITA | NATION

the poems in the book was titled "More than a Wallet". It reads in part: "I know I am only but a wallet/ You see me only but as a wallet/ If I die, insurance will simply refill the wallet."

From the University of Nairobi, he graduated in 1994 with a mechanical engineering degree. He undertook his master's degree in engineering management at the University of Cape Town. He obtained a second master's degree at the London School of Economics. He moved to South Africa in 2005, first as a lecturer, then afterwards got employed in various firms. He also ventured into the energy business. At the time of his death, he was the majority shareholder at South Africa-based Mwangaza Energy International, which was conducting multi-million projects.

According to Dr Amwayi, his cousin, he had assets worth hundreds of millions.

"He had a total of 13 apartments. He had a home in Cape Town, a home in Port Elizabeth, three homes in a gated community in Port Elizabeth, and eight one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments. The 11 were rented," he said.

According to his wishes, his ashes now lie in the sea. The serene, endless waters of Bali received him with peace

Ms Victoria Wanjiku



but I needed extra energy to fight these people. I'm throwing blocks at them and their likes," she wrote.

Dr Amwayi and his wife, Carol Mwatela, are among Magotsi's relatives who said they can no longer chat with Ms Wanjiku after she blocked them on WhatsApp.

Mr Magotsi's remains were cremated in Maputo on October 15. That day, Mr Magotsi's step-brother Jacob Motanya, who is based in South Africa, was scheduled to travel to Maputo. Ms Wanjiku had informed him that the post-mortem was to happen that Friday, and so he thought arriving on Wednesday was timely enough.

"My plan was to travel to Mozambique on that Wednesday, two days before the post-mortem... Only to get information on Wednesday morning from Lucky [Khumalo, Magotsi's business partner] that Victoria had cremated Robert. So, what I can say is that it was a deliberate misinformation," he said.

Oct. 11

Date when Robert Magotsi died in his home in Maputo, Mozambique

On Friday, we asked Ms Wanjiku to respond to that accusation, but she had not done so by the time of filing this report. Magotsi's family wonders why Ms Wanjiku refused to communicate with Mr Motanya after he landed in South Africa.

Magotsi's family says that it was Mr Khumalo who brought up the issue of the life insurance policy, reminding them that Ms Wanjiku had since been added as a beneficiary to replace the estranged wife, and the shareholding in the company.

Said Dr Amwayi: "He pointed out that Robert's [estranged] wife, Beverly, had been replaced by Victoria on that insurance cover in 2023.

Victoria and Robert got to know each other in February 2024. However, in the insurance policy, Beverly was replaced in 2023. How?" he asked.

Ms Wanjiku, in our interview, said she is only one of the four beneficiaries in the insurance cover, which would have brought her share of the payout to about Sh10 million.

"Why would I want someone dead for 10 million? If you look at what we are doing in one given year, our travels and all, what is 10 million?" Ms Wanjiku asked.

Ms Pamellah Nyawade, a cousin of Magotsi raised the matter of Magotsi's disabled Facebook account. After getting the news of the death, she said, she went to check his account for photos.

"It had been disabled. That to me did not make any sense," she said.

The account was still inaccessible by the time of filing this report. Ms Mwatela said: "I was really trying to follow up. I tried getting in touch with Victoria. She blocked me immediately."

The explanation given for Mr Magotsi's death is that he suffered a heart attack. The family got from Ms Wanjiku a handwritten post-mortem report written in Portuguese. They don't believe the document is genuine.

The Kenyan embassy in Mozambique was yet to respond to our queries on the progress of investigations.

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ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

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PREQUALIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS FOR THE YEAR 2026/2027

St. Mary's School is a Catholic day school owned and managed by the Archdiocese of

Nairobi offering both national and international curriculum education in its kindergarten, Primary school, Secondary school and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) school.

St. Mary's School aims at promoting the holistic growth of our students and pupils through the teaching of Christian values, character formation and academic excellence by adapting the ethos of the Catholic tradition.

The school wishes to prequalify suppliers of the following categories of items/ services for the period 2026-2027.

CATEGORY 1: ACADEMIC ITEMS	
SMS 01/01/2026	General Office stationery and Printing services
SMS 02/01/2026	Textbooks / Library books / Hymnals
SMS 03/01/2026	Laboratory chemicals and equipment
SMS 04/01/2026	Games uniforms, T/Shirts and sports Equipment
SMS 05/01/2026	Staff uniforms

CATEGORY 2: FOOD ITEMS	
SMS 01/02/2026	Dry foods and cereals
SMS 02/02/2026	Fresh Milk & Milk products and Water-Reserved
SMS 03/02/2026	Fresh bread
SMS 04/02/2026	Cooking Oil
SMS 05/02/2026	Sauces, pastes and baked beans
SMS 06/02/2026	Beverages -Natural Fresh Fruit Juice
SMS 07/02/2026	Fresh Vegetables and fruits
SMS 08/02/2026	Fresh meat and meat products

CATEGORY 3: CLEANING & TOILETRY ITEMS	
SMS 01/03/2026	Cleaning Materials and detergents
SMS 02/03/2026	Swimming pool & fish pond chemicals and other related accessories.
SMS 03/03/2026	Provision of tissues, serviettes and other related consumables

CATEGORY 4: MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL & HARDWARE ITEMS	
SMS 01/04/2026	Motor vehicle, tractor & generator spare parts
SMS 02/04/2026	Electrical materials and fittings
SMS 03/04/2026	General hardware materials
SMS 04/04/2026	Construction materials
SMS 05/04/2026	General and Office Furniture

CATEGORY 5: FUELS & LUBRICANT ITEMS	
SMS 01/05/2026	Fuel, lubricants
SMS 02/05/2026	Gas & related products

CATEGORY 6: COMPUTER & COMPUTER ACCESSORIES	
SMS 01/06/2026	Provision, repairs & maintenance of Computers, printers, interactive boards, projectors & other related items.
SMS 0/06/2026	CCTV cameras- repairs & maintenance

CATEGORY 7: OTHER PRODUCTS / SERVICES	
SMS 01/07/2026	First Aid drugs, ambulance and other medical services
SMS 02/07/2026	Cleaning - Garbage collection, fumigation, Sanitary bins collection & disposal etc.
SMS 03/07/2026	Tents and Chairs
SMS 04/07/2026	Public Address Systems
SMS 05/07/2026	Branding and promotion materials and services
SMS 05/07/2026	Tours and Travel services

All applications will be made on a prescribed 'pre-qualification of suppliers' form which can be downloaded on our website: <http://www.stmarys.ac.ke/tenders>

Completed applications in sealed envelopes stating clearly the category of item/service and marked

"prequalification of suppliers 2026/2027" should be addressed as below and dropped in the tender box at our offices at St. Mary's School - James Gichuru Road, Nairobi between **Monday and Friday from 8.00am to 4.00pm** on or before **Monday 15th December 2025**:

The Administrator,
St. Mary's School - Nairobi,
P.O. Box 40580 - 00100,
NAIROBI.

Prequalification applications received after the stated date shall be returned to the bidders unopened. Applications will be opened on **Tuesday 16th December 2025** from **9.00am**. St. Mary's School reserves the right to accept or reject any application in whole or in part without giving reasons for doing so.

NB: Those currently supplying items/ services to the school and those that have submitted their company profiles/ letters of introduction MUST apply afresh in order to determine their eligibility.

National News

Revision Learners will be allowed to make changes to their school choices

Education ministry says automated placement process is set to begin later this week after the release of KJSEA results on Thursday

BY DAVID MUCHUNGUH AND WINNIE ATIENO

Learners joining Grade 10 will know the senior schools they will be placed in before Christmas Day, according to a detailed plan by the government on how the top candidates will secure their preferred schools.

This is intended to give parents time to prepare their children for senior schools that they are expected to report to on January 12, 2026.

The process of placement will start this week after the Ministry of Education announced that the Kenya Junior School Education Assessment (KJSEA) will be released by Thursday. The placement will be done electronically by the Ministry of Education, and the admission letters will be issued through the National Education Management Information System (Nemis).

Last week, Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba assured Kenyans that his ministry will work round-the-clock to ensure that the KJSEA results are released in good time to give parents and guardians adequate time to prepare for their children's transition to senior school.

The *Nation* can now reveal some details of how learners will be placed as well as how they will receive their individual results.

The results of the KJSEA, which had a candidature of 1.1 million, will be accessible on the Kenya National Examinations Council (KneC) portal using the learner's specific assessment number.

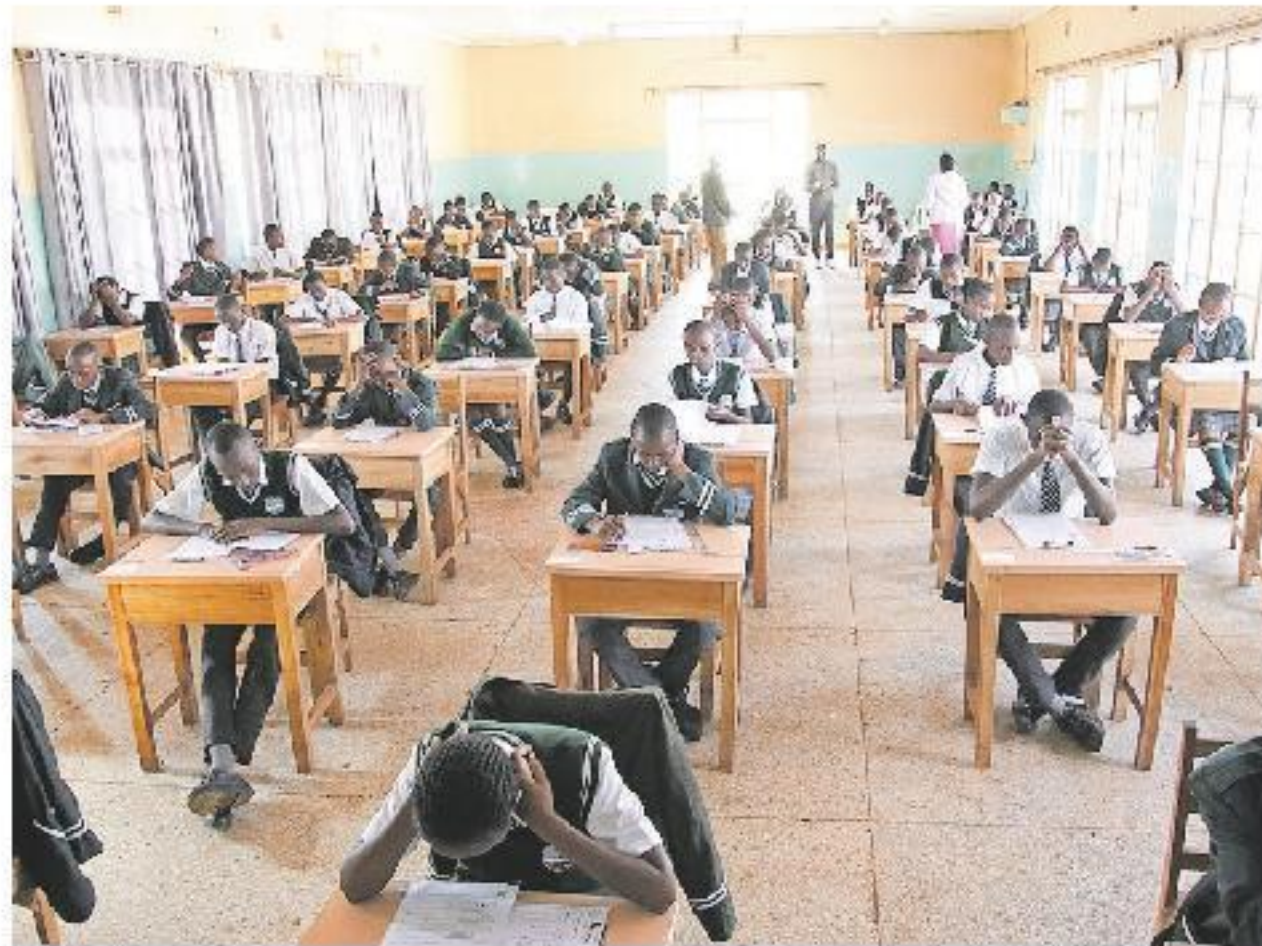
According to a document from the ministry, the top six learners per gender in each science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (Stem) track per sub-county will be placed in their boarding schools of choice. The top three learners per gender in each social science track per sub-county will also be placed in boarding schools of their choice, so will the top two learners per gender in each arts and sports science track per sub-county.

New reporting structure

The KJSEA results will be based on a new reporting structure with an eight-level quantitative score for each of the learning areas. This is an expansion of the four-level scoring system used under the competency-based education (CBE)—exceeding expectation, meeting expectation, approaching expectation and below expectation. Each of these four levels will be broken down into two to form the eight-point scoring levels.

For example, a candidate whose qualitative score is exceeding expectation in mathematics will have a score of either seven or eight as the quantitative score, whereas a candidate whose qualitative score is below expectation will have a quantitative score of either one or two. Candidates with achievement level of seven and eight per track will be placed to boarding schools of their choice.

In an exclusive interview with the *Nation*, KneC Chief Executive Officer David



Kenya Junior School Education Assessment candidates at Moi Nyeri Complex Primary School in Nyeri County on October 27. JOSEPH KANYI/NATION

How learners will secure slots in top senior schools

nation@daily.com

Njeng'ere said that the change in how the council will report the assessment results is to manage the stakes and also adhere to global best practices.

"We'll not report a percentage score. Candidates will have points on a range of one to eight for each learning area. It is this that the Ministry of Education will use to place them to senior school. The purpose of junior school is to expose the learner to a broad curriculum then assess them and use their performance to place them in career pathways and tracks in senior school," Dr Njeng'ere said.

"If your child has gotten four or five, six or three, you can tell if he or she is very strong or weak in mathematics, English, creative arts or the rest of the subjects. You will get the results showing your child's performance," he explained.

The final score will be generated from the score in the Kenya Primary School Education Assessment (KPSEA), formative assessments in Grade Seven and Eight and the KJSEA they undertook a month ago.

"From KPSEA we have 20 per cent then we have another 20 per cent from the school-based assessments; that is 40 per cent. Then we have the summative KJSEA which they sat for recently which gives us 60 per cent. We do not want to subject a child to one assessment to tell their abilities. We wanted it to be something we see it grow over a period of time," Dr Njeng'ere said.

On placement, Cluster 1 schools (national schools under 8-4-4) will offer all the three pathways while day schools will offer only two pathways. The pathways are Stem, social sciences and arts and sports.

The learners have already selected their preferred 12 senior schools. In the selection, nine of the schools are boarding schools (three from the learners' home county and six from outside their home county or county of residence). The other three are day schools in their

home sub-county or sub-county of residence.

Some schools will be allowed pre-selection because they do not conduct open placement. Starehe Boys Centre is an example of such schools.

According to the ministry's document, all schools, both public and private, will admit Grade 10 learners through Nemis and principals will not be allowed to enter a learner into the system before they report to the school physically. The ministry will monitor reporting of the learners daily.

Change schools

Further, learners who wish to change schools will make requests through the heads of the junior schools they attended at least two weeks before the official Grade 10 reporting date.

"Priority shall be given to those who had earlier selected the schools they are requesting. Approvals by MoE shall be based on senior schools' documented capacity.

"Upon a request's approval, the joining instructions shall be accessed online; at no time shall a school issue printed letters for replacement cases," the document reads.

Replacement will be done once and shall not be reversible, the document adds.

Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development Director Charles Ong'ondo urged teachers, parents and guardians to engage the learners in meaningful discussions on their career path choices once the KJSEA results are released.

"Because they will now have their results, let's talk to them together with their parents to help them make well-thought-out decisions. We are in discussions at the stakeholder level to allow children some time to revise what they had earlier chosen," Prof Ong'ondo said.

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Capitation

Free Primary Education funding to rise to Sh2,238 per learner, ministry says

BY LYNET IGADWAH

Funding for primary school education is set to increase by 58 per cent to Sh2,238 per learner, even as education experts warn that the amount remains low given the rising cost of living.

Currently, the government caters for tuition and operations' cost for learners in primary level at the rate of Sh1,420.

Basic Education Director-General Elyas Abdi, in a televised interview, stated that there is official communication that the capitation for primary school learners is set to rise to Sh2,238.

Elimu Bora Working Group said the move is commendable but the amount still falls short.

"That is a good intention but should be implemented on the interim as a unit cost analysis is done so that what's provided for learners is adequate," said the working group's Policy and Strategy Advisor Boaz Waruku.

When he took office, President William Ruto established the Presidential Working Party on Education Reforms to find recommend solutions to the challenges bedevilling the education sector. In its report, it recommended that the government revises capitation for the primary level to Sh2,238 in view of the realities of the Competency-Based Curriculum.

Mr Waruku argued that the implementation of the recommendations should have begun earlier, and that the new amount is inadequate due to inflation.

The Kenya Kwanza administration has been struggling to release the full capitation per learner blaming it on constrained fiscal space.

Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi also told Parliament recently that the inconsistency in disbursing the capitation comes about because the amount budgeted for is less than the expectation.

This comes on the back of fears that parents with children in day secondary schools will have to dig deeper into their pockets after the government abdicated its responsibility to fully cover tuition fees.

Parents will be required to top up Sh9,374 annually for tuition, bringing the total tuition capitation for day secondary schools to Sh22,244, according to the Ministry of Education Guidelines for the Implementation of Senior School Education 2025.

Curiously, the guidelines, released to school principals in October include a Gazette notice dated March 10, 2015, which stipulates that the government's

That is a good intention but should be implemented on the interim as a unit cost analysis is done so that what's provided for learners is adequate

Mr Boaz Waruku



capitation for day schools is Sh12,870.

Under the free secondary school education programme introduced in January 2018, schools only required parents to pay an average of Sh5,000 per term to cover meals, school uniforms and personal items.

Already school principals have started sending fee structures with the additional Sh9,374 financial obligation on parents, spreading it across three terms. "Our fear is, are these parents going to afford given that it has been a struggle getting them to pay the amount for meals," said a school principal in Murang'a who did not wish to be named.

The additional financial burden comes at a time the first cohort of learners under the Competency Based Education is transitioning to Grade 10, which is domiciled in secondary schools.

"We can foresee that some of the schools will not receive many of the Grade 10 pupils owing to the financial impediment on parents," said another principal.

But Dr Abdi maintained that there will be no fee increment come January 2026.

"The capitation still stands at Sh22,244 for senior schools next year," he said, responding to assertions by Kiharu MP Ndingi Nyoro that the government intends to increase fees based on the ministry's guidelines.

Dr Abdi could not, however, offer a straight answer on why the ministry attached a decade-old Gazette notice to the guidelines to assist in transitioning of learners to senior school.

Free Day Secondary Education in Kenya was introduced in January 2008 by the government of President Mwai Kibaki. In January 2018, the government of President Uhuru Kenyatta rolled out an enhanced version as part of efforts to achieve 100 per cent transition from primary to secondary school.

National News

Carnage 2,400 pedestrians, motorcyclists died this year



National Transport and Safety Authority officials and police officers during a crackdown on traffic laws violators at Salгаа on the Nakuru-El-dore highway on December 4. BONIFACE MWANGI | NATION

Be careful on roads, motorists urged as festive season starts

Holiday period sees a surge in passenger numbers, and tragic traffic accidents

BY MILLICENT MWOLOLO

Calls for motorists to exercise greater caution on the roads are growing louder as new statistics reveal a worrying rise in traffic fatalities.

According to the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA), 4,458 people died in road crashes between January 1 and December — an increase from 4,311 recorded over the same period in 2024.

The surge cuts across all categories of road users, with pedestrians and motorcyclists remaining the most vulnerable. This year alone, more than 1,400 pedestrians and about 1,000 motorcyclists have lost their lives—figures that community leaders and safety advocates say demand urgent behavioural change.

The latest crash killed seven people at Miasenyi in Taita-Taveta County on the Nairobi Mombasa highway after a matatu was involved in a head-on collision with a trailer on Sunday.

The holiday period sees a surge in passenger numbers, prompting operators to increase the number of trips and maximise profits which leads to fierce competition on highways, where speed often becomes the determining factor in attracting passengers or meeting operational targets.

December remains particularly dangerous due to the sheer volume of travel. As families journey to rural homes or holiday destinations, the highways become congested, increasing the likeli-

hood of collisions.

Police and the NTSA have intensified a crackdown on major highways across the country to ensure safety during the busy December holidays.

It is against this backdrop that officers from NTSA, members of NGO Enabling Trend, bodaboda riders and local residents recently gathered in Makongeni, Thika, to push for safer road practices and reinforce the message that road safety is a shared responsibility.

Bodaboda rider Naftaly Gichane encouraged his colleagues to strictly follow the Traffic Act and Highway Code.

“The Traffic Act gives us regulations that guide all road users. We must obey them,” he said, urging riders to maintain valid insurance and licences, and ensure their motorcycles are roadworthy. He emphasised the importance of helmets and reflective gear—for both riders and passengers.

NTSA officials supported the training with practical demonstrations before distributing helmets and reflector jackets to improve visibility along the busy BAT-Makongeni-Blue Post corridor.

For Humphrey Obulo, a Nation

Before you go to the road, know that it is your individual responsibility to protect your life and the lives of other road users

Mr Humphrey Obulo



Media Group rider who has survived five road crashes, safety is a life-and-death matter.

“Before you go to the road, know that it is your individual responsibility to protect your life and the lives of other road users, and remember you have a family that depends on you,” he told the meeting.

A powerful testimony came from Fridah Kirema, an NMG administration supervisor and founder of Enabling Trend, who survived a traumatic crash along Mai Mahiu Road in 2012. The accident left her with a spinal injury and multiple fractures.

“When you have a road crash, your life kind of crashes too,” Ms Kirema said. Daily routines, she said, now take hours and require caregiver support. She credits her family, colleagues and friends for helping her rebuild her life, and says her experience inspired her to start Enabling Trend to support persons with disabilities—many of them road-crash survivors.

Kenya Red Cross representative Anthony Kuria praised the partnerships driving community-based safety initiatives.

“This campaign will ensure that our brothers and sisters get home safe,” he said.

He urged riders to avoid risky behaviour and learn basic first aid, noting that communities often serve as first responders.

With the festive season approaching, Jane Chege of Del Monte Kenya reminded Kenyans to remain vigilant.

“It is the responsibility of every road user to be cautious. This way, everyone will be kept safe,” she said.

As a psychologist, she noted that anger and stress can trigger dangerous decisions: “When people are annoyed, that is when they decide to take their bikes or



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE NATIONAL TREASURY

PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION OF TAX POLICY PROPOSALS FOR THE FY 2026/2027 BUDGET

WHEREAS Article 201(a) of the Constitution on the principles of public finance requires openness and accountability, including public participation, in financial matters;

FURTHER WHEREAS Article 232(1)(d) of the Constitution requires involvement of the people in the process of policy making;

NOTING section 35(2) of the Public Finance Management Act (Cap. 412A) requires participation by the public in the budget process; and

RECOGNISING the burdens and benefits of the use of resources, raising revenue and managing expenditure equitably;

NOW THEREFORE, in compliance with Article 201(a) and 232(1)(d) of the Constitution, and section 35(2) of the Public Finance Management Act, (Cap 412A), The National Treasury hereby invites the members of the public, the national government and county governments, non-governmental organizations, civil societies, professional bodies, private sector players, religious groups and other stakeholders to make submissions for consideration in the fiscal budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027.

The proposals should focus on specific amendments to tax laws for inclusion in the Finance Bill 2026. Submissions should align with the Government’s Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, which seeks to achieve economic turnaround and inclusive growth through a value chain approach.

To facilitate review, each submission should include:

- the specific tax law and the provision proposed to be amended;
- a concise description of the issue to be addressed; and
- a clear justification supported by evidence or analysis.

The proposals received will inform the formulation of tax measures for consideration in the Finance Bill 2026 to support ongoing efforts to strengthen revenue mobilization and promote equitable and sustainable economic growth.

Hard copy submissions should be delivered to the undersigned, and soft copies sent to submissions@treasury.go.ke not later than **31st December, 2025**.

**HON. FCPA, JOHN MBADI NG’ONGO, EGH
CABINET SECRETARY**

National News

Elections Commission tells politicians to learn to accept outcomes instead of trying to force victories

IEBC: Politicians tried to influence polls

Chairperson says voter apathy, a growing problem, needs urgent attention

BY KEVIN CHERUIYOT

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) has issued a statement on the outcome of the November 27 by-elections and the challenges it faced.

At a high-level stakeholder forum held in Nairobi yesterday to review the by-elections and IEBC's preparedness ahead of the 2027 General Election, the commission said that some political figures had attempted to interfere with the voting.

IEBC Chairperson Erastus Ethekeon said cases of voter apathy, bribery, disruption to the voting process at some polling stations and the use of goons to intimidate voters and IEBC officials were reported.

He added that the low turnout during the voting process is a big challenge that needs to be addressed by all the stakeholders.

"We need to ask ourselves as Kenyans, is IEBC the problem or there is a problem somewhere else? Even where political parties and their candidates scare voters, they blame IEBC," Mr Ethekeon said.

He said that the decreasing number of people voting in elections could affect the state of democracy in the country.

"It did not start with this by-election. In 2017, the voter turnout was 78.9 per cent. In 2022, the figure came down to 64.4 per cent. There is a problem in this country with voter apathy," he said, also pointing out the low participation by the youth.

Mr Ethekeon highlighted cases of politicians attempting to manipulate the democratic process.

"There was an attempt by political actors to influence election officials. We said that we will serve this county without fear and without favouritism," he said, telling politicians that the commission would not condone attempts to bribe or harass election officials.

"If you did your campaigns well and chest-thumped that you are very popular, why do you want to harass our presiding officers



Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission Chairperson Erastus Ethekeon during a press briefing at Anniversary Towers in Nairobi on November 14. FILE | NATION

and returning officers? You want to secure an illegitimate victory," he said.

Mr Ethekeon also urged political actors in the country to learn to accept the outcomes of the election process instead of trying to force victories.

Noting that there were cases where IEBC officials were assaulted in some of the polling stations, as well vandalism, Mr Ethekeon said: "We condemn these incidents of assault and vandalism, not only against our officers but also against the public. Six polling stations were affected."

He condemned the interference with the voting process where the goons were mobilised to cause chaos. Further, he expressed his disappointment in the conduct of some of the politicians who showed up at tallying centres, claiming to be super-agents.

"When these people show up in a small polling station, they overrun the polling station because they will come accompanied by the so-called supporters. We saw that had a very disruptive impact in the manner in which the polling was progressing," he said.

IEBC Chief Executive Officer Marjan Hussein Marjan said that

We condemn these incidents of assault and vandalism, not only against our officers but also against the public

IEBC Chairperson Erastus Ethekeon



the by-elections offered a glimpse into the commission's operational preparedness, technological deployment and stakeholder engagement strategies.

"Despite the success, this election also highlighted various issues that require attention. Voter apathy, logistical challenges, misinformation and isolated security incidences reminded us that the electoral management is a continuous learning process," he said.

The commission said that it received nine complaints regarding the candidates who were cleared to run for several seats, out of which six were solved and three were escalated to the courts.



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY 13TH PARLIAMENT - FOURTH SESSION - 2025

IN THE MATTER OF ARTICLE 118(1)(b) OF THE CONSTITUTION
AND
IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 25(2) OF THE PROCEEDS OF CRIME AND ANT-MONEYLAUNDERING ACT, CAP. 59A
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL) ACT, CAP. 7F
AND
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR MR. NAPHTALY KIPCHIRCHIR RONO, NOMINEE FOR
APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FINANCIAL REPORTING CENTER

NOTIFICATION TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON THE APPROVAL HEARING AND SUBMISSION OF MEMORANDA

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of section 25 (2) of the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Act, Cap. 59A and sections 3 and 5 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap. 7F the Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury notified the National Assembly of the nomination of Mr. Naphhtaly Kipchirchir Rono for appointment as the Director General, Financial Reporting Center;

AND WHEREAS, following receipt of the nomination the Rt. Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly on Wednesday 3rd December 2025 conveyed the Message to the National Assembly and referred the names and *curricula vitae* of the nominees to the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning for consideration and reporting to the House;

FURTHER WHEREAS, Article 118(1)(b) of the Constitution requires Parliament to facilitate public participation in the legislative and other business of Parliament and its Committees and Section 6(9) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap. 7F provides that "any person may prior to the approval hearing and by written statement on oath, provide the Clerk with evidence contesting the suitability of a candidate to hold the office to which the candidate has been nominated";

IT IS NOTIFIED to the general public that pursuant to the provisions of Article 118(1)(b), section 25 (2) of the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Act, Cap. 59A and Section 6(4) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap. 7F, the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning shall conduct the approval hearing (vetting) of the nominee for appointment as Director General, Financial Reporting Center on Thursday, 29th January, 2026 in the Mini Chamber, County Hall, Parliament Buildings at 11.00 a.m.

NOW THEREFORE, in compliance with Article 118(1)(b) of the Constitution and Section 6(9) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, 2011, the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning hereby invites members of the public to submit any representations they may have, by way of written statements on oath (*affidavits*) with supporting evidence contesting the suitability of the nominee for appointment as Director General, Financial Reporting Center.

The memoranda may be forwarded to the Clerk of the National Assembly, P.O. Box 41842-00100, Nairobi; hand-delivered to the Office of the Clerk, Main Parliament Buildings, Nairobi; or emailed to cna@parliament.go.ke; to be received on or before Wednesday, 24th December, 2025 by 5.00 pm.

IT IS FURTHER NOTIFIED that the nominees are required to—

- (1) Appear for the approval hearings with their original identity cards, academic and professional certificates and other relevant testimonials; and
- (2) Obtain letters/certificates of compliance from the following institutions—
 - (a) The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission;
 - (b) The Kenya Revenue Authority;
 - (c) The Higher Education Loans Board;
 - (d) The Directorate of Criminal Investigations;
 - (e) The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties; and
 - (f) A Credit Reference Bureau.

S. NJOROGE, CBS
CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
9th December, 2025

"For the Welfare of Society and the just Government of the People"



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WATER, SANITATION
AND IRRIGATION



WATER SECTOR
TRUST FUND



GERMAN DEVELOPMENT
BANK



COUNTY
GOVERNMENT
OF BUNGOMA



BWASCO WATER AND
SEWERAGE PLC

BWASCO WATER AND SEWERAGE PLC

INVITATION TO TENDER (ITT)

TENDER NO	TENDER DESCRIPTION	ELIGIBILITY	BID SECURITY KSH
BWASCO/WDT/OT/01/2025/2026	CONSTRUCTION OF A 50M ³ DECENTRALIZED TREATMENT FACILITY IN CHWELE	Open	320,000

BWASCO Water and Sewerage PLC is in receipt of funds from Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund) under the UBSUP Programme to undertake the above project.

Interested and eligible bidders may obtain the tender document free of charge by downloading from the company's website www.bwasco.or.ke or from PPIIP www.tenders.go.ke

Tenders to be received on or before **Monday, 22nd December 2025 at 12:00 noon** local time in the tender box located at the company's main office reception during official working hours, Monday to Friday 0800 to 0500 pm. For more information about the tenders visit www.bwasco.or.ke or PPIIP portal www.tenders.go.ke. Bidders are required to permanently bind and serialize all pages sequentially of all bid documents and submit only 1 copy in original format; Addressed to:

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR,
BWASCO WATER AND SEWERAGE PLC,
P.O BOX 1005-50205,
WEBUYE.

Site visit/ Pre- Bid meeting is mandatory and will be held on **Tuesday, 16th December 2025 at 10:00 am** local time at the BWASCO Boardroom located opposite Rai Paper Mills in Webuye, behind Masinde Muliro University Webuye campus. Site visit certificate will be issued as proof of attendance. Check other details of the tender in the tender document.

Electronic bidding not permitted. **Late bids will not be accepted.** The bids will be physically opened immediately after closing on **Monday, 22nd December 2025 at 12:00 noon** local time at BWASCO Boardroom in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

HEAD OF PROCUREMENT
FOR: MANAGING DIRECTOR

Graft Report shows bribery remained the most prevalent form of corruption, followed by embezzlement

Commission official says weak enforcement of the Constitution's provisions on leadership and integrity values remains a major challenge

BY STEVE OTIENO

The greatest impediment in the fight against corruption is the government itself, with multiple ministries, State departments, agencies and county governments being listed as notorious graft dens in a new report.

According to the latest Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission's (EACC) 2024/2025 annual report, tens of state agencies and counties are under investigation for corrupt dealings running into billions of shillings.

Topping state agencies being investigated for procurement irregularities is the Kenya Leather Development Council for a tender worth Sh2.5 billion for the construction of an effluent treatment plant. The plant was to be constructed at the Kenya Leather Park in Machakos in the 2017/18 financial year.

Another investigation into alleged procurement irregularities targets the Kenya National Highway Authority in a tender worth Sh2 billion. The contract for the construction of the Greenpark terminus was awarded to China Road and Bridge Corporation in the 2023/2024 financial year.

In Mandera County, the former governor is being investigated for allegations of conflict of interest for irregular payments to 10 companies that traded with the devolved unit between 2013 and 2020. The money involved is Sh1.67 billion. Still in the same county, the commission is checking into allegations of conflict of interest implicating a former assembly speaker for award of contracts worth Sh1.42 billion to Frontier Engineering Limited between 2014/2015 and 2024/2025.

The National Industrial Training Authority has also caught the anti-graft watchdog's eye for its involvement in the suspicious procurement of an enterprise resource planning system upgrade and Human Capital Transformation Platform worth Sh1.62 billion.

The Kitui County government is being probed for allegations of conflict of interest and embezzlement of Sh1.42 billion. Other counties that are being investigated are Kajiado, Wajir, Kiambu, Turkana, Trans Nzoia, Bomet, Embu, Garissa, Trans Nzoia and Siaya. They are among under investigation for inflated tenders, conflict of interest and fraudulent payments linked to officials.

Other high-profile cases include investigations into the alleged irregular award of a Sh1.3 billion tender by the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council for the construction of a simulation centre, and misappropriation of Sh1.3 billion by Kenya Power in the construction of the Wind Power Plant in Lamu West Constituency.



Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission Chairperson David Oginde (left), Chief Executive Officer Abdi Mohamud and Commissioner Cecilia Mutuku during the launch of the commission's annual report for the 2024/2025 financial year at Integrity Centre in Nairobi yesterday. EVANS HABIL I NATION

These achievements are not mere statistics. They represent schools reclaimed, hospitals protected, land restored and public funds redirected towards public good. They demonstrate clearly and decisively that corruption does not pay, and it will not prevail

EACC Chairperson David Oginde



The enemy within: State, county officials looting public funds

At the same time, the Kenya Medical Supplies Authority is under investigation over alleged procurement offences involving Sh1.1 billion, while the National Treasury faces scrutiny over questionable payments totalling more than Sh956 million made to various companies. There is also a separate inquiry into Sh681 million allegedly embezzled by Treasury officials in the Programme for Rural Outreach of Financial Innovations and Technologies.

The Kenya Water Towers Agency is being investigated for embezzlement of funds totalling Sh147 million, with the Nuclear Power and Energy Agency being probed for procurement irregularities worth Sh100 million. The Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya has seen EACC knock its doors over the alleged fraudulent payment of Sh95.5 million as daily sustenance allowance to employees without following the approved government rates.

On individuals, the commission is investigating two senior police officers for unexplained wealth totalling Sh54.8 million, while a civil society boss is on the spotlight for allegations of bribery worth Sh3 million to withdraw allegations of procurement irregularities against a senior official of the Kenyatta International Convention Centre.

The Kenya Urban Roads Authority, Kenya Electricity Generating Company, Ewaso Nyiro South Development Authority and Kenya Ports Authority are all being investigated for alleged procurement irregularities and conflict of interest matters.

The EACC is further probing rampant bribery and falsification of doc-

uments, with the Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company accounting for over eight cases with a combined value of over Sh130 million.

There are similar cases involving Kenya Ports Authority employees, an officer at the Office of the Auditor-General, customs officials, Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) officers as well as employees at the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission accused of forging academic qualifications to secure employment.

These inquiries into suspected corrupt dealings are expected to lead to asset recovery, prosecution of culpable officials and reforms within institutions implicated in misuse of public funds.

Other than highlighting the State agencies involved in suspected graft, the Commission also revealed that it received 4,183 corruption complaints, with 1,846 taken up for investigation in the period under review.

Bribery remained the most prevalent form of corruption, accounting for 37 per cent of reported offences, followed by embezzlement of public funds at 19 per cent, unethical conduct (13 per cent) and fraudulent disposal of public property (10 per cent). Other economic crimes made up the remaining 21 per cent, including procurement fraud, conflict of interest and money laundering.

Over the period under review, the anti-corruption body had 838 active corruption and economic crime investigations and submitted 175 completed files to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Proactive enforcement also intensified, with 14 undercover probes and 166 in-

tegrity tests conducted—actions the commission said averted potential loss of an estimated Sh16.5 billion in, the highest figure recorded in recent years.

EACC also ramped up its asset recovery efforts, tracing properties worth Sh22.9 billion, preserving assets valued at Sh2.685 billion and filing 79 recovery suits seeking Sh4.8 billion. Assets worth Sh3.4 billion were successfully reclaimed.

On prosecutions, 213 corruption cases were before court, with 54 concluded, resulting in 33 convictions, 15 acquittals and six withdrawals.

The year also saw intensified integrity enforcement, with 33,973 self-declaration forms processed and 2,783 verifications conducted.

EACC further said it pushed key legal reforms under the Anti-Corruption Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025, including six-month timelines for corruption trials, expanded investigative powers and enhanced whistle-blower protection.

In the 166 integrity tests it conducted on officers in key government agencies, including the KRA, National Police Service, Eldoret Airport and the Ministry of Lands, 152 failed, four passed and 10 cases were declared inconclusive.

It also blocked 50 individuals from being appointed to public positions over ethical concerns. Of these, 47 had been shortlisted for national government jobs, while three were lined up for county roles.

EACC Chairperson David Oginde, while launching the report, said that the improved results reflect stronger collaboration with prosecutors and better evidence standards.

"These achievements are not mere statistics. They represent schools reclaimed, hospitals protected, land restored and public funds redirected towards public good. They demonstrate clearly and decisively that corruption does not pay, and it will not prevail," he said.

Despite the notable achievements, Dr Oginde stated that weak enforcement of the Constitution's provisions on leadership and integrity values, interference with witnesses, growing threats and intimidation targeting EACC's officers, non-collaboration among State agencies and rising public apathy and normalisation of unethical behaviours remained key challenges for the commission.

EACC Chief Executive Officer Abdi Mohamed cautioned that the recent successes of the commission should not lull anyone into thinking that the fight against corruption has been won.

"Corruption remains a dynamic and persistent threat that adapts to our defences. The commission will continue to implement activities and programmes outlined in our strategic plan for a sustained and impactful fight against graft and unethical conduct," he said.

The EACC, Mr Mohamed added, will prioritise some areas in its work going forward, including monitoring capital-intensive projects, bribery at service delivery points, asset recovery and forfeiture of unexplained assets, engagement with regulatory bodies as well as public awareness programmes.

soketch@ke.nationmedia.com

3.4

Assets worth Sh3.4 billion were successfully reclaimed by the EACC in the last financial year

National News

Framework Kemsa to distribute supplies for timely detection of loss, diversion and falsification

Sh2bn US deal to boost Kenya's disease surveillance, response

Cash meant for assessment of systems, border and migration health, safety protocols for pathogen handling

BY MERCY CHELANGAT

The government has agreed to collaborate with America on surveillance and disease outbreak response efforts.

The Kenya National Public Health Institute is expected to lead the interventions.

In the highly privatised Kenya-US health framework seen by *Nation*, the funding will support the establishment of 10 of the health institute's regional hubs and 20 County Emergency Operations Centers.

The money will also be used for the assessment of Kenya's systems related to disease surveillance, border and migration health, and safety protocols for pathogen handling—including collection, transport, storage, testing and disposal.

In total, the US government will spend USD 22,531,800 (Sh2 billion) on Kenya's surveillance and outbreak response. The US will allocate USD 4,506,360 (Sh582 million) annually to the programme from 2026 to 2030.

Crucially, the assessment must align with the Kenya Integrated Surveillance Strategy and support the national roadmap for multi-pathogen surveillance, integrating HIV, STIs, viral hepatitis and other epidemic-prone diseases.

To strengthen surveillance capacity, Kenya has committed to train existing health officials as well as 250 field epidemiologists. An additional 1,601 officers comprising public health emergency responders, logisticians, data scientists and laboratory professionals will also be trained.

The document shows that Kenya has agreed that the United States Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) approval or Emergency Use Authorisation of medical countermeasures will be sufficient grounds to deploy such countermeasures during an outbreak, in accordance with applicable Kenyan laws.

This means that if the FDA deems a product safe and effective for emergency use, Kenya will adopt it immediately during an outbreak without additional local regulatory delays.

The framework also includes the establishment and equipping of laboratory systems, the reinstatement of Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (Kemsa) as the national agency for procurement, warehousing, and distribution, the integration of US-funded healthcare workers into the national workforce, accelerated digital health reforms, and various strategic interventions.

Kenya plans to establish approximately 4,567 laboratories nationwide,



President William Ruto delivers his speech during the historic signing of a peace deal between President Donald Trump (right), President Félix Tshisekedi of the DRC and President Paul Kagame of Rwanda in Washington, DC, US. Angola's President João Lourenço looks on. PHOTO | PCS

all fully equipped to detect, identify and characterise pathogens with outbreak, epidemic, or pandemic potential, while ensuring blood safety. The laboratory system will be tiered across the county, national and regional levels.

At the national level, the system will include 12 public health surveillance laboratories, four research laboratories, two animal health laboratories, four level six referral laboratories, a national quality control laboratory, a Kemsa quality assurance laboratory and a national blood safety reference laboratory.

Additionally, Kenya will establish 4,542 county laboratories, 3,500 of which will be supported by the US government at a cost of USD 3,313,024 (about Sh428 million).

America will also continue providing USD 14,961,000 (approximately Sh1 billion) in laboratory commodities and will fund about 515 frontline laboratory workers, including technicians and quality assurance officers.

While the US will fully fund laboratory commodities in 2026, its support will decrease gradually, with Kenya expected to assume full financial responsibility by 2030. America will also fund the salaries of the 515 frontline lab workers until 2027, after which Kenya will absorb them onto the government payroll starting from 2028.

According to the framework: "The Government of Kenya intends to insure any lab commodity inventory both paid for by the US Government and distributed through Kenya Government-owned supply chains... Lab commodities include the actual cost of the commodities as well as related distribution costs, including warehousing, shipping, and trucking. These costs do not include data systems or technical assistance." Currently, the US Government pro-

250

Field epidemiologists to be trained by the government. An additional 1,601 health officers will also undergo training.

vides USD 74,782,231 annually (an estimated Sh9 billion) for essential health commodities, HIV treatment, rapid tests for HIV and malaria, treatments for opportunistic infections, tuberculosis preventive therapy, malaria medicines, insecticide-treated nets, and limited maternal, newborn, and child health commodities.

The US plans to continue funding 100 per cent of these commodities in 2026, after which its support will de-

BENEFITS

US government to pay workers' salaries

The US government will also continue paying salaries and benefits for healthcare workers; nurses, clinical officers, laboratory workers, pharmacy staff, and HIV testing and counselling providers. For its part, Kenya is committed to absorbing the healthcare workers by June 30, 2028. Their pay will match that of comparable government-employed workers. Other seasonal frontline workers—such as malaria programme staff, community health promoters, and mentor mothers—will be integrated into appropriate government cadres to ensure continuity.

cline gradually, with Kenya expected to assume full responsibility by the end of the framework period.

"The 2026 funding includes an additional one-time strategic investment in buffer stock for HIV treatment to support six-month dispensing for stable patients and HIV prevention to eliminate mother-to-child transmission," the framework states.

Kemsa will distribute the supplies to enable timely detection and investigation of loss, diversion, or falsifications. Kenya must notify America within seven days of any such incidents involving US-funded commodities.

The US Government will also continue paying salaries and benefits for healthcare workers; nurses, clinical officers, laboratory workers, pharmacy staff, and HIV testing and counselling providers.

For its part, Kenya is committed to absorbing the healthcare workers by June 30, 2028. Their pay will match that of comparable government-employed workers. Other seasonal frontline workers—such as malaria programme staff, community health promoters, and mentor mothers—will be integrated into appropriate government cadres to ensure continuity.

Both the Kenyan and American governments have committed to accelerating digital health reforms to advance the Universal Health Coverage (UHC), guided by the Digital Health Act, 2023. The TaifaCare Hospital Management Information System (TaifaCare HMIS) serves as the backbone.

Having already deployed TaifaCare in 1,500 public facilities, Kenya plans to scale it up to 8,000 public and faith-based facilities by 2028—reaching 2,000 health centres in 2026, 4,000 in 2027, and 8,000 in 2028.

mchelangat@ke.nationmedia.com



A police officer with recruits at Kapkures in Nakuru West on November 17. BONIFACE MWANGI | NATION

Why NPSC wants court to reverse hiring of 10,000 police officers

BY SAM KIPLAGAT

The National Police Service Commission (NPSC) has urged the Court of Appeal to reverse a decision that allowed the Inspector-General of Police to proceed with the recruitment of more than 10,000 officers.

Appearing before the appellate court yesterday, the commission said the exercise proceeded with the Inspector-General of Police Douglas Kanja stepping into a space that the Constitution has reserved for the NPSC.

The commission added that the recruitment of police constables across the country last month was anchored on legal emptiness, "a process undertaken in a vacuum, stripped of the statutory and regulatory safeguards that ordinarily anchor transparency, fairness, and merit".

In a judgment on October 30, the Employment and Labour Relations Court ruled that the recruitment of the officers is a constitutional function exclusively vested in the National Police Service as a national security organ.

Unlawful transfer of mandate

The Employment and Labour Relations Court declared some sections of the National Police Service Act unconstitutional, for interfering with the independent command of the Inspector-General of Police.

The NPSC said the trial court swept aside the National Police Service Commission (Recruitment and Appointment) Regulations, leaving no guiding framework, no structured criteria, and no lawful guardrails for a function as delicate and consequential as the recruitment of new officers into the Service.

"That moment illustrated a system operating without its compass, where a constitutional function proceeded without the laws meant to give it coherence, legitimacy, and public confidence," NPSC submitted.

The court will rule on the application on February 27, 2026.

Another petition was filed before the High Court, and the recruitment of the 10,000 constables was temporarily suspended. However, the order was later lifted, allowing the exercise to proceed.

In the appeal, the commission argued that the implementation of the judgment issued by the employment court will cement an unconstitutional transfer of the commission's mandate to the Inspector-General of Police, resulting in the progressive re-organisation of the National Police Service's human resource framework.

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National News



Nation Media Group Managing Director and CEO Geoffrey Odundo (right) with Co-operative Bank of Kenya Director for Co-operatives Banking Division, Vincent Marangu (centre), during the 10th Annual Sacco Leaders Summit in Mombasa. KEVIN ODITI | NATION

Savings Cooperatives CS Oparanya says State to introduce stronger regulations

Embrace tech to succeed, NMG boss advises Saccos

nation@daily.com

He says technology will help safeguard members' money saved in co-operative societies

BY JURGEN NAMBEKA

Nation Media Group Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Odundo has asked Savings and Credit Co-operative Organisations (Saccos) to embrace technology in a bid to safeguard members' money.

He spoke during the 10th Annual Sacco Leaders Conference organised by the Kenya Union of Savings and Credit Co-operatives (Kuscco) in Mombasa County.

Mr Odundo asked Saccos to also focus on understanding the needs of young people and encourage them to save through the societies.

The CEO, who was the keynote speaker during conference, congratulated the Kuscco board over its handling of the challenges it faced following regulation lapses that surfaced recently.

"Our work, at times, is to bring to the public what happens. And because of our coverage of the Kuscco scandal, action was taken. Importantly, the management chose to confront the issue head-on. I believe Kuscco will become one of the best institutions even after this setback," said Mr Odundo, who gave a lecture on transformational leadership in the Sacco sector.

For its part, the government said that it will tighten oversight of the cooperative sector and fast-track long-pending reforms to protect the savings of millions of Kenyans at the Kuscco.

Cooperatives Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya said the government will introduce stronger regulation and a savings protection fund for Saccos as a way to

prevent a repeat of the crisis.

"The ministry had to intervene in the Kuscco issue because it was necessary. Governance lapses emerged and people lost money. Kuscco lost Sh13 billion and Metropolitan nearly Sh7 billion. This has pushed us to tighten policies so that we can effectively regulate the Sacco sector and protect the savings of hardworking Kenyans," said Mr Oparanya.

He said that although cooperatives are private institutions, the State is duty-bound to safeguard public deposits because of the sector's far-reaching impact on households and the economy.

The CS also said that the government will reform the sector through the Cooperatives Bill, which will introduce a deposit guarantee mechanism, a savings protection fund, stronger funding for the Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority (Sasra) through a levy, and a national register of Sacco leaders to prevent officials implicated in mismanagement from moving between institutions.

"Sasra is underfunded. We want a levy put in place to strengthen the body so that it can regulate the sector. Without a strong regulatory institution, it becomes very hard to regulate the sector that now has over 14,000 Saccos, with only about 300 of them regulated," he said.

Mr Oparanya added that the government is committed to ensuring that every shilling saved in a Sacco is as safe as the money kept in a bank. He said that the reforms will anchor the future of the cooperative movement.

"This is a sector with nearly 10

million members. We must protect it, strengthen it, and ensure that no Kenyan loses their hard-earned savings," he said.

State Department of Co-operatives Principal Secretary Patrick Kiremi echoed the concerns. He said that Saccos must confront modern fraud risks, including identity theft and digital manipulation. The questioned how withdrawals and reconciliations can be verified in systems where transactions can be deleted, and called for investment only in the institutions regulated by the Central Bank of Kenya.

"Regulation must match modern risks," he said, urging Saccos to strengthen compliance and improve customer verification.

For its part, Kuscco leadership pledged to work with the government to restore confidence of people in the institution.

I want to give you hope that Kuscco, with your support, we will get to the end, to recovery. We are on a painful journey to ensure we recover, and we will pay back all our members

Kuscco Chairperson David Madegwa



The Group Managing Director Arnold Munene said that he took over at "one of the most challenging chapters" in the union's history and appealed for unity within the sector to support the recovery.

He said Kuscco cannot convince policymakers to support the movement if it can't demonstrate its national impact. He stressed that the Sacco movement should not be defined by crisis but by resilience.

Kuscco Chairperson David Madegwa reported progress in refunding members' money, noting that Sh132 million was refunded in 2024, Sh84 million in Kuscco-specific funds, and that Sh152.2 million is targeted for 2025.

He said members would begin seeing movement in their accounts and confirmed that auctions and asset disposals are ongoing to raise additional funds.

"I want to give you hope that Kuscco, with your support, we will get to the end, to recovery. We are on a painful journey to ensure we recover, and we will pay back all our members," said Mr Madegwa.

A committee of experts advising the ministry on regulatory issues said the sector must embrace a modern regulatory framework to address long-standing weaknesses. After 20 weeks of consultations, the team proposed shared digital platforms, liquidity tools, insurance schemes, and reforms to the delegate system to ensure stronger governance and faster decision-making.

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Kenyan activists to show solidarity in planned TZ protests

BY STEVE OTIENO

Kenyan activists are planning to demonstrate in Nairobi in solidarity with Tanzanians as regional pressure mounts over what rights groups describe as an escalating human rights crisis across Tanzania.

This comes even as the Kenyan High Commission in Tanzania last week issued a security advisory warning of possible unrest during Independence Day activities today (Tuesday).

Tanzania was to mark its sixty-fourth Independence Day celebrations today, but this was cancelled by the government, which instead asked citizens to stay at their homes, saying there would be no fanfare to mark the day as is the norm.

The protest organisers have officially notified the Nairobi Region Police Commander, George Sedah, of their planned procession to the Tanzanian Embassy, through a letter seen by the Nation, that was signed by Nicholas Oyoo, Secretary General of the Free Kenya Movement.

Former Makuani Governor Kivutha Kibwana, Free Kenya Movement President Bob Njagi, and Vocal Africa's Ojiro Odhiambo led the press briefing of a Pan-African solidarity statement in Nairobi yesterday, condemning the violent repression unfolding under President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Professor Kibwana said the regional civic community could not stay silent.

"State violence and mass arrests cannot be normalised. Tanzanians deserve democracy, dignity and life," he said.

The activists say digital blackouts, throttling and takedowns on platforms such as Meta and X have been deployed to hide evidence of abuses that were reported during last month's General elections.

Mr Njagi said the brutality borrowed its script from historic authoritarian patterns across the continent.

"This is not disorder; it is a system. When you disappear bodies, raid hospitals, intimidate

religious leaders and terrorise communities, you are governing through fear," he said.

Ojiro Odhiambo, who read out the coalition's demands, said the situation in Tanzania had crossed every red line.

"We demand the immediate cessation of all forms of violence, repression and arbitrary arrests and immediate release of all detainees and dropping of politically-motivated charges, with guaranteed access to legal representation," he said.

Mr Odhiambo said the full list of demands reflected the desperation on the ground.

The coalition is also calling for the resignation and exit from office of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, the disbanding of all illegal security formations, including militia-style groups, and the prosecution of security, intelligence and military officials implicated in killings, abductions and mass intimidation.

He said the activists also want full restoration of internet access, an end to digital censorship, and reinstatement of deleted testimonies and cautioned technology companies to stop suppression and aiding the Tanzanian government in tracking and arresting citizens.

Mr Njagi urged citizens across East Africa to stand firm against repression.

"Tanzania's pain is not theirs alone. When one state normalises violence, the entire region is put at risk," he said.

Professor Kibwana condemned the Tanzanian government for cancelling the celebrations, saying it is unheard of anywhere in Africa, even adding that if the country's founding father, Julius Nyerere, were to visit Tanzania, "he would go back to where he has been because it is unheard of".

If Samia was able to garner 98 per cent of the Tanzanian votes, Prof Kibwana said, then she would not have cancelled the celebrations. Her act, the former Makuani county boss said, is a testament that she knows she is not legitimate.



Human rights activists address journalists at the Kenya Human Rights Commission offices. EVANS HABIL | NATION



AKINIKA



**HOLIDAY
FIESTA**
AKINIKA



DON'T SPEED

**WEAR A
HELMET**

**USE
SAFETY BELT**

**USE
FOOTBRIDGES**

**DON'T DRINK
AND DRIVE**



Violence Women face GBV after delivering children with genetically inherited diseases, activist says

When genes breed abuse: A mum's fight against chronic disease, denial

Mercy's marriage broke down after her son was diagnosed with sickle cell disease, husband blames her for it

BY ANGELINE OCHIENG

Mercy* steadies her one-year-old son as he stirs on a mat where he has been having his afternoon nap. She moves through familiar motions; water for a bath and clothes to wash — the endless rhythm of a mother's day.

But there is a fracture running through these ordinary moments. For the past seven months, she has done this alone in her brother's three-roomed house in Kisumu County, far away from the home she shared with her husband of eight years.

Mercy does not speak about that home easily. And when she does, tears well up in her eyes.

"I left my matrimonial home early this year following continuous emotional abuse by my husband," she says, her eyes betraying her pain.

The abuse did not begin because of infidelity, money or the ordinary conflicts that afflict marriages. It began because of a diagnosis.

In October 2024, Mercy's newborn son was diagnosed with sickle cell disease, an inherited blood disorder caused by a mutation in the gene that produces abnormal sickle-shaped red blood cells. These cells block blood flow and cause severe health complications.

The diagnosis should have brought the couple together. However, it tore them apart.

"My husband said that he has never heard of the disease in his lineage, and, therefore, I am responsible for our baby's condition," Mercy recalls.

"He refused to pay the medical bills and opted to visit a herbalist in search of a cure."



A doctor collects a blood sample from a baby during a free sickle cell disease screening camp. WILFRED NYANGARESI | NATION

The misunderstanding on how inherited diseases work has cost Mercy her marriage, livelihood, and nearly everything that she had built.

Eight years ago, in 2017, when Mercy moved in with her spouse, they were hopeful of a good future together. A few months into the marriage, she conceived their first child. However, after birth, the child suffered ill health from the outset. Hospital visits became routine.

In 2019, a paediatrician advised the couple to get the child tested. The test results revealed that he had sickle cell disease. Their first-born died of the illness.

"None of us thought about getting screened for the blood disorder," Mercy says. "Neither of us had ever come across the disease in our families."

The couple will never know if their child would have lived had

they understood the disease sooner. After the loss, they moved on with their lives. Six years later, Mercy conceived again. This time round, after delivering her baby in October 2024 at Kisumu County Referral Hospital, she followed a health worker's advice and had her newborn screened. Three months later, the hospital called her to pick up the results.

"I was scared of breaking the news to my husband. I requested the health worker to inform him on the phone," she says, adding that her husband did not answer the phone call.

That evening, as they prepared for bed, Mercy told her husband about the results. She remembers him blaming her. Mercy says that he was emphatic that no one in his family had ever suffered from sickle cell disease.

"You are the one who brought the disease," he said to her.

What followed was months of cruelty. Mercy says he called her names. She says that he even threatened her when she asked for help to buy their son's medication. When she asked him to go for screening to understand how their son had inherited the disease, he refused. Instead, he

We have encountered one case of a man who was pushed out of his home by his wife who believes he is the cause of the illness

Lily Webale, Zuwi Afya founder



blamed her daily for bringing what he called a "killer disease" to the family. He swore that he would never have another child with her.

Mercy had a choice: to stay and endure, or leave and try to survive alone. By May 2025, the emotional abuse had become unbearable. She walked out.

Approximately 6,000 infants are born with sickle cell disease every year in Kenya. According to Ministry of Health statistics, 80 per cent of them die before their fifth birthday. Kisumu, one of the country's high-burden areas for the disease, records 3,000 children born with the blood disorder annually. These are not rare cases. Yet the violence that follows a diagnosis of the disease is rarely discussed.

Ms Lily Webale, the founder of Zuwi Afya, a community-based youth-led health organisation says sickle cell cases are common.

"Cases of women exposed to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) after giving birth to children with genetically inherited diseases, especially sickle cell, remain common," she says.

Her organisation supports sickle cell disease warriors across the country who face physical or emotional violence from partners who blame them for their children's illness.

In some cases, the violence comes not just from husbands but from in-laws who put pressure on the men to remarry and bear "healthy children".

"We have encountered one case of a man who was pushed out of his home by his wife who believes he is the cause of the illness," Ms Webale notes.

But women bear the heaviest burden of the blame. And many,

like Mercy, find themselves leaving their marriages. Others stay but they become the sole caregivers. They carry the emotional and financial burden alone. Some women end up enduring violence in silence, with the hope that things will change.

Ms Webala says that when women finally understand the biology behind the disease—that sickle cell is inherited from both parents, not one—the blame dissolves. However, that requires access to information.

Last month, the organisation launched a campaign to create awareness about sickle cell disease. People were educated on how the disease is inherited and how it is managed. The campaign includes free screening services for couples and children, as well as counselling for parents who are carriers and those whose children have been diagnosed.

"Our major message, as we mark the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence is to make the masses understand that the disease is not a fault of one of the parents, but it is inherited from both," Ms Webala says.

For Mercy, that understanding came too late to save her marriage. After she left, she lost her teaching job at a private school. She was told that she had become unreliable. Before the separation, Mercy was frequently absent from work because she needed to take her son to hospital.

"Before I was sacked, I was not able to report to work regularly because I had to take care of my ailing son," she says. "I am his sole caregiver. As time went by, my employer relieved me of my duties, saying that I should go and take care of my child."

The hospital visits have consumed her savings. The Social Health Authority covers some of her son's medication, but many drugs are rarely available in public health facilities.

"A number of drugs are rarely available in the public facilities, forcing me to pay out of my pockets," Mercy says.

Seven months into her separation, Mercy now depends on her family and friends for support to take care of her son.

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The silence that consumed him: A survivor's story of pain

BY MORAA OBIIRA

In 2014, Kerundu* was just 18, fresh from receiving his Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education examination results. He had scored a C minus.

His hope of proceeding to college to pursue his passion for hospitality quickly dimmed when it became clear that his parents could not support him beyond secondary school. Determined to build a life for himself, he began asking around for any kind of work. Luck came his way when he secured a position as a domestic worker in Mombasa County.

For nearly six years, he served his female employer. All seemed well, to a

point where the two developed a sense of camaraderie.

Then, in February 2020, at the height of the Covid-19 lockdown, everything changed.

"She told me the speaker in her bedroom wasn't working and asked me to fix it," he says. "Since we had become like friends, going to her bedroom wasn't an issue for me. I was wrong. She took advantage of my trust."

He found her naked. As he tried to leave, she shut the door and raped him.

"After she was done, I saw her reaching for her phone. She had recorded the ordeal. I confronted her and asked her to delete the video, but she refused. She said

that it would be her security in case I ever reported her to the police," he says.

Terrified, Kerundu felt trapped. He feared that she would leak the video on social media. He suffered panic attacks that paralysed him.

"If my employer found me doing something, my whole body went weak. I'd shake but had no energy to move. Even after she left the house, it took time for me to recover," he says.

A month after the incident happened, Kerundu could no longer endure the discomfort. He left immediately after receiving his monthly salary of Sh12,000.

Almost five years later, Kerundu is still deeply traumatised.

"Recently, I fell sick and thought, 'this is it. She infected me with HIV. I'm going to die.' I only settled after going to hospital and finding out that it was something else," he says.

He says he cannot allow himself to be idle, because suicidal thoughts surface. To keep himself occupied, he plays loud music, sings, and dances.

Kerundu kept the ordeal secret until 2023, when he finally confided in a friend after feeling he had hit rock bottom.

"After sharing with him, I felt better," he says. "He understood my pain and encouraged me not to judge myself. He reminded me that there are people who

care about me. That assurance felt like a weight had been lifted," he says.

Still, he says he no longer trusts women. He says that he suffers panic attacks whenever he is around women who have a similar age as his abuser.

"I seriously need counselling. There are days I'm so low when I think about the rape. I'm not okay, even if you see me smiling. There's pain, anger and bitterness in my heart that I can't explain," he says.

"Yet I can't report her. She is a well-connected woman and can kill me like she threatened, or release the video. That would just push me to the grave," he says.

*Name changed to protect identity.

OPINION

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Why state shouldn't sell the goose that lays golden eggs

The recent announcement by the Kenyan government of its intention to sell 15 per cent of its shares in Safaricom to Vodacom South Africa for Sh240 billion begs careful thought and reflection. Safaricom is not just another giant telco. It is a local provider of telecommunications and financial services, a major economic contributor and a digital catalyst through its extensive network and its flagship product, M-Pesa, which put Kenya on the global map.

The company provides essential services, creates jobs and income, pays huge amounts of taxes and dividends to the government and is deeply integrated into Kenyans' daily lives.

The company is, therefore, a symbol of Kenya's innovation and economic strength, a source of national pride and is at the very core of public service, national psyche and identity.

Let us look at the downside of this divestiture approach. First, M-Pesa is purely a Kenyan innovation considered the country's gift to the rest of the world. It is critical to Kenya's financial system through which trillions of shillings worth of transactions were processed last year and is expected to continue rising going forward.

Second, Safaricom forms the backbone of Kenya's national communications infrastructure covering all parts of the country. It also plays a key role in data, cybersecurity, and digital identity services and this has key implications in national security and digital sovereignty. It is worth noting that the bulk of E-citizen government services to its citizens are largely settled through M-Pesa.

Third, by ceding the controlling stake to a foreign corporation, estimated to reach about 54 per cent after the sale, there is a serious risk of capital and profit outflows. The annual dividends paid to the government will increasingly flow to South Africa.

As if that is not enough, key decisions by the foreign owners are likely to prioritise the interests of their foreign shareholders, not Kenyan economic strategy.

Fourth, there is a serious risk of weakening Kenya's domestic economic sovereignty. This is because Safaricom plays a unique role in digital inclusion, tax revenue generation, encouraging innovation, job creation and supporting Kenyan startups and fin-techs.

Fifth, selling shares to a foreign entity may weaken

Key decisions by the foreign owners are likely to prioritise the interests of their foreign shareholders, not Kenyan economic strategy

Karithi A. Ngeera | **Divestiture**

Kenya's bargaining power in the digital economy and the government's ability to regulate or guide the company toward national priorities. Safaricom in partnership with the government has in the past played a major role in road safety and security by installing traffic monitoring cameras along major roads and highways.

Sixth, there is potential job and procurement shifts. Foreign-majority influence could lead to outsourcing of high-value jobs, more procurement from South Africa or Europe instead of Kenyan companies and reduced local ecosystem development. This has the potential of undermining Kenya's technology sector competitiveness.

It is worth noting that Safaricom is a consistent, high-performing dividend generator, selling shares gives one-time revenue, but Kenya loses recurring annual income for decades to come.

Seventh, the transaction lacks public participation and transparency. This poses a serious risk of undervaluation and underhand dealings. There is a real possibility of further erosion of public trust with attendant political ramifications. The public may be left feeling that their government is privatising without their consent a strategic public asset.

So how can Kenya navigate this transaction and still come out the winner? The government should offload its shares through the Nairobi Securities Exchange to enable Kenyans buy the shares.

This enables the government to kill two birds with the same stone — get money for infrastructure and still keep Safaricom under Kenyan control.

Mr Ngeera is a published researcher. amoskarithi@gmail.com

Health deal double-edged sword

Kenya's recent signing of a Sh207 billion (\$1.6 billion) health cooperation framework with the United States marks a historic milestone. It positions Kenya as the first African country to enter such a government-to-government health compact.

As a health economist, I see both transformative opportunities and critical missteps in this agreement, especially when viewed through the lens of Kenya's Constitution and the Data Protection Act.

Let's explore the merits and the de-merits of this deal. Unlike past aid routed through NGOs, funds will flow directly to Kenya's Ministry of Health, enhancing accountability and strengthening public systems. The deal targets HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB and polio, while also supporting broader health infrastructure. Kenya pledged to increase its own health spending by \$850 million, signalling co-investment and domestic resource mobilisation.

Being the first African nation to sign such a compact elevates Kenya's profile in international health diplomacy. Removing third-party intermediaries reduces transaction costs and ensures funds reach intended beneficiaries.

Allegations suggest the deal may grant the US access to Kenya's health databases, including sensitive patient records. This risks violating Kenya's Data Protection Act, 2019, which guarantees citizens' privacy.

Allegations suggest the deal may grant the US access to Kenya's health databases

Eric Kamau | **Data privacy**

Clauses subjecting the agreement to US federal law could undermine Kenya's constitutional autonomy in managing health policy.

Kenya's Constitution enshrines the right to health under Article 43. Furthermore, the Data Protection Act requires explicit safeguards for personal health data. If the deal compromises these protections, it risks constitutional litigation and public mistrust.

The Kenya-US health deal is a double-edged sword. It offers unprecedented resources to strengthen Kenya's health system, but it also exposes vulnerabilities in data privacy, sovereignty and sustainability.

Mr Kamau is a health, economy and marketing researcher. bshrlmr301422@spu.ac.ke

Men are raised to endure. They are expected to withstand pain, bury disappointment and never admit vulnerability



George Manyali | **Gender**

Protect men from silent forms of GBV

In conflicts that have driven women to leave home and disappear for years, a rarely spoken truth lies buried beneath the rubble of broken families; men are quietly rebuilding their lives alone. They are raising children without motherly presence, living with uncertainty about whether anyone will ever return, and carrying emotional loads they were never allowed to acknowledge.

When gender-based violence (GBV) is mentioned in public discourse, the victims are almost always portrayed as women — and rightly so, because the violence women face is real and devastating. But tucked behind this narrative is an uncomfortable reality: many cases of GBV affecting men remain unreported, unheard and unrecognised.

Across Kenya — and particularly in the western region — societal expectations demand that men observe the "three Ps": protect, provide and procreate. Men are raised to endure. They are expected to withstand pain, bury disappointment and never admit vulnerability. Yet the rising cases of suicide, depression, substance dependence and general mental health decline among men should ring a national alarm — all is not well.

While women suffer defilement, sexual assault and physical violence, men face a different category of abuse — one that society has normalised or dismissed. Men are silently enduring abandonment, denial of conjugal rights, emotional manipulation, cyberbullying and character assassination. These forms of violence do not leave physical scars, but they cause deep psychological wounds. A man who is mocked at home and bullied online goes to bed in the same house as his abuser, expected to remain calm, provide and "be a man".

The digital era has worsened things. Public shaming, malicious gossip, revenge posts, edited photographs and defamatory videos have become tools of humiliation. Unlike physical violence, online violence follows a person everywhere: to work, to public gatherings, and back into the privacy of their home. A man can switch off his phone, but he cannot switch off the damage.

County governments across Kenya have invested heavily in building physical safe houses for GBV survivors — a commendable and necessary intervention. But even as these brick-and-mortar shelters rise, one question remains unanswered. Where are the digital safe houses?

There is no structured space to support survivors of cyberbullying, online shaming or digital harassment. There is no hotline dedicated to victims of social media abuse. There are no policies compelling tech companies to take stronger action against malicious content targeting vulnerable individuals — including men. Yet cyberbullying has driven families apart, destroyed reputations and pushed many to the brink of self-harm.

It is time for policymakers, mental health experts, community leaders and especially tech giants to step up. Kenya needs a Digital Peace House — a protected online space where victims of cyberbullying, regardless of gender, can access counselling, mediation, legal advice and community support.

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Send your opinion article to: dnopinion@ke.nationmedia.com or write to The Editor, Daily Nation, P. O. Box 49010, Nairobi 00100.

DAILY NATION

Curb teacher shortage in senior school rollout

The Teachers Service Commission (TSC) has its work cut out as the country gears up for a key phase in the transition to the Competency-Based Education (CBE). Indeed, the TSC has a substantial task in implementing the new curriculum by ensuring adequate teacher preparedness, training and deployment. It must work with other education stakeholders to ensure that teachers have the necessary tools and environment.

The TSC faces significant challenges in fulfilling its mandate of recruiting and employing registered teachers. It is worried about the next academic year, as there is a glaring imbalance. While some schools are reeling from a higher teacher workload, a few are adequately staffed.

In the current financial year, the TSC was allocated Sh378.2 billion, out of which Sh2.4 billion was for the recruitment of permanent teachers and Sh7.2 billion for the hiring of intern teachers for junior school.

However, the TSC has warned that the shortage of teachers, fuelled by insufficient budgetary allocation, is bound to worsen next year with the senior school rollout, threatening to undermine the right to access quality basic education. New subjects in junior and senior secondary schools have increased the demand for teachers.

The Constitutional Implementation Oversight Committee of the National Assembly has cautioned in a report that the current teacher shortage threatens to undermine education standards in public schools. The Grade 9 students will join Senior School (Grades 10-12), choosing one of three major pathways: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), Social Sciences, or Arts & Sports.

The TSC faces significant challenges due to an inadequate budget allocation, which has resulted in a critical teacher shortage. Junior and senior schools require 129,392 teachers. The recent recruitment of permanent teachers and interns to bridge the gap has not made much of a difference.

Stop the web of killings

The digital technology that eases communication and the unregulated short-term rental facilities are proving to be a deadly combination. They have been cited in the sharp increase in femicide, especially in major towns.

There is evidence of a growing new form of violence that often targets women. It starts online as the victims are lured to the rental places with remarkable precision.

Behind these tragedies that have stunned the country lie a lethal mix of digital anonymity, lax rental oversight and predators, who brutally exploit the victims' vulnerability with chilling efficiency.

Early this year, the brutal murders of two women in short-term rental apartments in Nairobi sparked public outrage, with human rights groups decrying what they termed a "femicide crisis".

Unregulated short-term rentals and anonymous dating apps remain a deadly trap. Government crackdowns and dating app safety features have failed to stop the slaughter.

What should be temporary sanctuaries for travellers, couples, or friends have instead become the venues for the most disturbing killings.

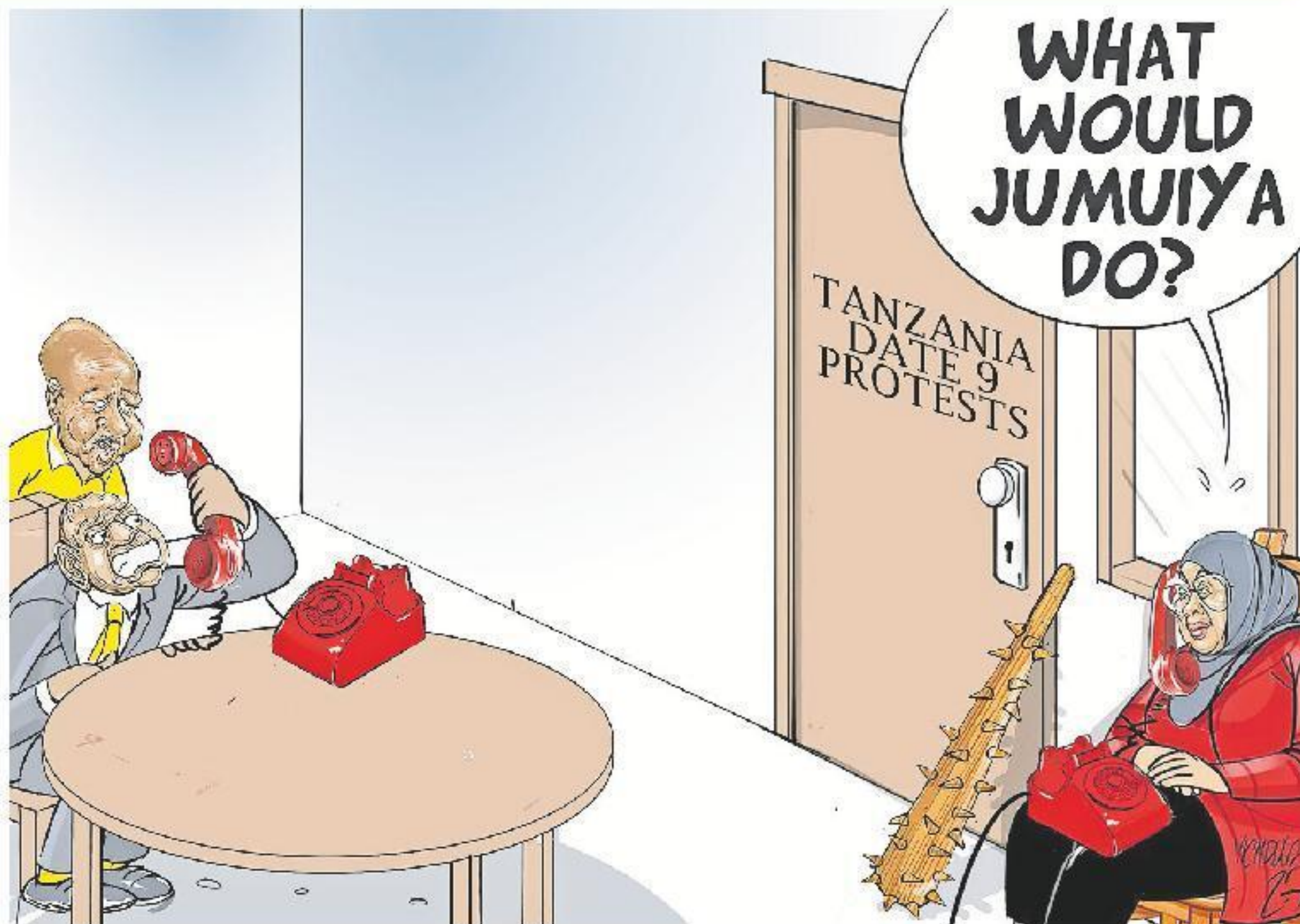
Casual hook-ups on dating sites and weak oversight turn into crime scenes. Some are booked through global platforms such as Airbnb, while others are arranged locally.

The Directorate of Criminal Investigations has flagged dating apps as a new criminal frontier, where offenders hide behind fake profiles, multiple phone numbers, and pseudonyms, making their tracking a logistical nightmare.

Property owners say they cannot vet strangers with the rigor of law enforcement.

As the country confronts the digitally fuelled violence, safety advocates want stronger identity verification on dating platforms, mandatory emergency contacts and a regulated short-term rental registry. These reforms remain elusive as killings persist.

The authorities should tighten security and surveillance to prevent deaths in the short-stay rentals.



Ruto's risky dance with US, China

I have this recurring dream of a farmer, enjoying his tea bonus windfall, drunkenly lurching from the arms of one lady of the night to another; but eventually losing all women together with all his money.

It might not be correct to conclude that dream scenario is influenced by President William Ruto's apparent lovefest with American President Donald Trump just a few months after he appeared to have fallen for the embrace of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

President Ruto was in Washington last week to witness Presidents Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Paul Kagame of Rwanda sign a deal brokered by Mr Trump aimed at ending the long-running conflict in eastern Congo.

But what caught attention locally was happening on the sidelines, a bilateral health cooperation agreement between Kenya and the US, which ignited immediate controversy over claims that Ruto was effectively signing away confidential health data of Kenyan citizens.

On assuming office for the second time in January, President Trump froze billions in aid for Africa, and subsequently announced an 'America First' strategy that makes support to poor nations dependent on agreements that advance US priorities.

The health pact drafted to drive US interests has been cooling on the shelves of many countries who are keenly studying if their own interests are reasonably addressed before putting pen to paper.

But Kenya was quick to conclude scrutiny of the fine print, and decide the bounty of some Sh208 billion over the next five years was more important than questions over what the country surrenders.

During the visit, American officials were full of praise for the Ruto government, lauding long-standing economic and security links, especially cooperation against the terrorist threat in Africa and Kenya's role leading the effort against criminal gangs that have overrun Haiti. The mutual admiration put on display

There is nothing wrong in a small country gaining by playing off super-powers against each other... The worrying thing is that we seem unable to distinguish between personal and national interests.



Macharia Gaitho | Statecraft

seemed to indicate that President Trump was going back on his implied threat to dump the special attention paid to Kenya by his predecessor Joe Biden. The relationship then culminated in President Ruto earning the honour of a State Visit in May last year, and Kenya becoming the first sub-Saharan African country to earn the status of a Major Non-Nato US ally.

The return of President Trump had threatened to dump the special relationship, and even raised fears that the US would close or downgrade its military facilities on the Kenya coast which are crucial to the war against terrorism in Somalia and the Middle East.

The US has apparently realised it could not just dump a traditional strategic ally. But celebrations in State House that Ruto was being accorded the status of 'most-favoured African' by a Trump administration that generally dismissed the 'shithole' continent, must be tempered by the fact that it is still all about America First, not Kenya. It probably will be only a matter of time

before Trump lays down conditions for continuing American support, which might include demands that President Ruto abandon his simultaneous love affair with China.

It was just in April this year that the President concluded a State Visit to China where he penned a series of major infrastructure deals, many of which are critical to his 2027 re-election campaign.

Presidents Ruto and Trump have in common transactional foreign policies, many of which seem designed for personal enrichment rather than the national good.

President Trump makes no secret of the fact that his intervention in the Congo is motivated by the opportunity for American access to untold underground mineral wealth, especially the rare earths that are critical to digital technology and which China is the major supplier.

He put it plainly during the signing of the peace deal that a lot of people, presumably his American business allies, would get very rich.

Kenya has also been engaged in some foreign misadventures within the region, in the Congo and also further afield in the deadly Sudan conflict, where some individuals are said to be getting very rich.

In that we are seeing interventions that seem to be directed not by sidelined Foreign Ministry professionals driving Kenyan strategic interests, but pure personal greed directed by shadowy brokers boasting close links to State House.

There is nothing wrong in a small country gaining by playing off super-powers against each other. That is the essence of statecraft. The worrying thing is that we seem unable to distinguish between personal and national interests; and we might be plunging headfirst into that scenario of the tea farmer who with his tea bonus pursues too many delights at the same time, and loses everything.

Mr Gaitho, an independent journalist, is former NMG Managing Editor for Special Projects. gaithomail@gmail.com

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

Way to prosperity • Without proper leadership and good governance, African countries will never prosper, says Jerry Kenyansa. Without naming names, he's convinced leaders must seek peaceful solutions to conflicts. "It's easy to start a war, but a nightmare to stop it. They should build the capacity to promote economic prosperity and political stability." His contact is countiescom@gmail.com.

Solar woes • While "solar is the in thing, and not because Safaricom is going green, the promotion has been going on for three decades", remarks Churchill Amatha. "Unfortunately, good technicians are few. The five cases I've been engaged in haven't been fruitful because the expertise is not standard. We urgently need properly trained technicians." His contact is c.amatha@hotmail.com.

Payment reversal • Can Safaricom, please, come up with a better approach to the reversal of wrong paybill payments, as customers are losing their money in these difficult economic times? George Kirethi pleads. He adds: "One disappeared with my Sh13,100 and yet the phone number provided by the Safaricom Customer Care Desk is not being answered." His email address is gkirethi@gmail.com.

Youth's time • After listening to Winnie Odinga's speech during the funeral of her paternal aunt, Beryl, Jediel Muthuri says: "I'm convinced that youth know what they want, where they want to go and with whom. They should be respected and given their space. The saying that the country is theirs calls for action for them to achieve their dreams. It can be done." His contact is jmuthuri@gmail.com.

Strong warning • The 10-year jail terms or Sh5 million fine each for two men who vandalised electricity equipment in Homa Bay is a serious warning to those who put entire neighbourhoods at risk of electric shocks, fires and outages, says Tonny Kyule. "But one strong court ruling isn't enough. Badly needed are up-to-date laws that put public safety first." His contact is tonykyule006@gmail.com. Have an effective day, won't you!

LETTERS

End suffering of intern teachers

Intern teachers are facing unprecedented hardships, teaching subjects and classes they haven't been trained for, and handling workloads that would overwhelm even seasoned educators. These young professionals are taking on responsibilities equal to their permanent counterparts, yet they're paid a pittance. How do the government expect learning to improve when the people tasked with imparting knowledge are struggling to make ends meet? The Education Cabinet secretary's statement that intern teachers should count themselves lucky as they have something to hold onto was a slap in the face. These teachers are not just asking for more money; they're asking for respect and dignity; to be treated as professionals, not exploited as cheap labour.

Edwin Kariuki, Mombasa

Mutua failed on compensation team

The High Court recently declared that President William Ruto did not have the power to form the team headed by Prof Makau Mutua to address payment for those who were killed or harmed by police during protests. Prof Mutua is said to be President Ruto's senior advisor on constitutional affairs, yet the court stated that the team was about to usurp the constitutional powers of the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights. If Prof Mutua could not advise the president properly on this matter, why is he needed at State House?

Githuku Mungai, Nairobi

Local assembly of car brand laudable

Isuzu's decision to fully assemble the MU-X vehicle brand locally is a statement about Kenya's industrial future. By assembling locally, Isuzu is creating employment opportunities, building technical expertise and stimulating support industries such as parts sales and logistics. On the economic side, reduced reliance on imports shields the economy from foreign-exchange volatility. Local assembly also strengthens Kenya's position as a manufacturing hub under Vision 2030 and opens the door to stronger regional trade. Isuzu has shown the way, now, policymakers and industry players must ensure this translates into long-term gains for the people.

Felix Kipruto Kemboi

Greedy agents selling off our youth

The allure of greener pastures, so long as they are in Europe or the Arab world is so strong in Kenya, especially with the high youth unemployment. What worries me is the number of agents and their attitude towards sending our future abroad. Even with bad reports from Russia, the Arab world and wherever else, these agents are unrelentingly recruiting more youth. A dead conscience is as good as a murderous mind. Our greed for money, surely knows no boundaries. Brother is selling brother for just 30 pieces of silver. May God's wrath haunt these agents.

Samuel Karari Chege, Kajiado

Release varsity students funds on time

Delay of scholarships and Higher Education Loans Board funds to students has become a major problem in universities. Students depend on these funds to cover essentials including, fees, rent and buying food. These delays severely hamper students' ability to work on their academic goals. They work hard but fail to sit for their exams or miss classes due to hunger and lack of basic necessities. I call on the government to take action and ensure that the upkeep, tuition and scholarships funds are disbursed on time.

Angelyne Wangila, Kibabii University

Mail your letters to: The Editor, Daily Nation, P.O. Box 49010, Nairobi 00100 or email mailbox@ke.nationmedia.com

TODAY IN HISTORY



December 9, 2014: MPs pass a motion doubling the maximum amount of money that the Treasury can borrow. The lawmakers adopted the motion by Majority Leader Aden Duale, which sought to raise the government's external borrowing from Sh1.2 trillion to Sh2.5 trillion. Here, Mr Duale addresses the press at Parliament buildings, defending the signing of the Security Bill (2014) that was passed by Parliament. COMPILED BY MARIA WAMBUA

LETTER OF THE DAY

We must elect better MPs if we want real change

Many Kenyans are still obsessed with the presidency, stuck in the pre-2010 Constitution era, yet the presidency matters far less now. And pretending otherwise is the reason we keep recycling national frustration. Our fortunes rise or collapse is Parliament, the arm of government we fill carelessly, emotionally, and without scrutiny.

The idea that a "strong president" will rescue us is a lazy escape from civic responsibility. Even the strongest president is handicapped when Parliament is weak, compromised and packed with MPs who neither understand their constitutional roles

nor care to defend public interest. We keep creating imperial presidents not because the office is inherently powerful, but because Parliament is chronically submissive and easily captured.

Right now, Kenya's biggest governance crisis stems not from State House, but the National Assembly, which rubber-stamps questionable Bills and a Senate that flip-flops depending on political winds. Committees of both Houses operate more like extensions of party leadership rather than watchdogs.

That is why supporting various parties is a survival strategy. A

fragmented house forces negotiation, scrutiny and discipline.

A Parliament without an overwhelming majority party would produce better oversight and debate, and fewer dangerous legislative shortcuts. Dominant-party politics is the breeding ground for impunity; with enough numbers, any regime can bulldoze through bad laws, punitive taxes and political appointments.

The economic strain facing millions of households today is directly linked to weak legislative resistance to harmful fiscal policies. The public outrage we see on taxes, cost of living, debt manage-

ment, and accountability failures would be far less if Parliament had acted as a counterweight instead of a conveyor belt. We are suffering the consequences of a House that forgot who it works for.

In the coming elections, we must elect MPs and senators who understand the Constitution, who can read a budget, who know oversight is not begging for CDF crumbs, and who are not intimidated by party leaders. Without this shift, the presidency, no matter who occupies it, will remain a convenient scapegoat for our own electoral negligence.

Joseph Katiku Kioko, Nairobi



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SAY NO TO CORRUPTION! SOME OF THE PARTNERS WHO HAVE JOINED



County News

Uasin Gishu One year later, Eldoret struggles to meet key upgrade conditions **P.19**

Nairobi Hearing of ex-senator Orwoba's salary case suspended **P.19**

How Sh26m raised by Nanyuki women sparked row over mosque upgrade

BY MWANGI NDIRANGU

When a group of Muslim women in Nanyuki town conducted a fund raiser to modernise a mosque, they did not envisage that their noble action would trigger a rift within the faithful.

The Sh26million raised during an event held at the Laikipia governor's office on September 9 has ignited a bitter row pitting members of Kherit Women Group and the management of Jamia Mosque Nanyuki. The row resulted in physical confrontation within the mosque last week.

Suspected fraud is also being investi-

gated by the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) after some committee members forged signatures of bona fide officials intending to make unauthorised bank withdrawals.

The bone of contention is on who between the fundraising committee and the mosque management should have the right to control the funds, with some faithful also opposing plans to give the 66-year-old mosque a new facelift.

Those opposed to the construction of a modern mosque have expressed fear that long-serving Imam Abdulrazak Hajj Hassan could be replaced, but the fundraising committee has dismissed this as

mere rumours being circulated by a section of leaders out to sabotage the project after failing to take control of the funds.

Last month, a group went to court seeking to be included in the management of the funds, but the court directed that the matter be subjected to Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms. However, the dispute has persisted for weeks now.

Initially, the plan was to raise money to purchase a hearse and build a perimeter wall around the Muslim cemetery.

"We had planned to collect about Sh10 million for the hearse and the fence. But when leaders expressed support for this project including Deputy President Ki-

thure Kindiki, we decided to factor in expansion of our mosque since the one we have is old and has limited space for all the worshippers," explained Ms Nimmo Elmi, the vice-chair of the women's group.

The Laikipia East Security Committee, under the leadership of Deputy County Commissioner Patrick Muli issued a stern warning to the warring groups.

"If you fail to bring the wrangles to an end, we shall be forced to close this mosque since as a government, we shall not sit back and watch as the matter degenerates to incidents of bloodshed," said Mr Muli.

The administrator directed that the original fundraising committee take charge of the project.

Speaking at a meeting on December 3 attended by over 200 members of the Muslim community, Laikipia East DCI boss Samuel Sakwa said that through forgery, some Sh40,000 was withdrawn from the mosque's bank account last week and the suspects were in the process of making another withdrawal of Sh100,000 this week when an alarm was raised.

"We shall not spare anyone in this probe regardless of their position in the society," he said.

Mombasa Salim was offered a place at JKUAT after scoring a straight A in his KCSE exams but he declined to take it up

BY BRIAN OCHARO

It wounds a parent deeply when one is forced to watch the child they once cradled spiral beyond reach, and still be forced to pay the price for a life they can no longer influence and for an offence they know nothing about.

Six years after losing his brightest son, Salim Mohamed alias Chotara, to the deadly grip of Al-Shabaab, Rashid Mohamed now faces the possibility of imprisonment, not because of anything he did, but because of what his son became.

Believing there was still hope for his son, Mr Mohamed did what any caring parent would do. He stood in court as a surety, offering two vehicles as security for Salim's temporary freedom while he faced terror-related charges.

But that decision now hangs over him like a curse. He has four days left to raise Sh1.5 million in bail forfeiture, a debt he never imagined would land on his shoulders.

On June 6, 2019, Salim was charged with being a member of Al-Shabaab and possessing improvised explosive devices. He denied the charges, and after two months in pre-trial detention, the court granted him bail of Sh3 million, which would later be reduced to Sh1.5 million, with two sureties of a similar amount.

He attended court diligently at first, but by October 7, 2020 he had disappeared. Salim skipped bail and fled to Mozambique, where he joined the Islamic State and eventually assumed a leadership role after fully immersing himself in militancy.

When he failed to appear on October 7, 2020, the two sureties were summoned to show cause why they should not forfeit the securi-

He lost son to extremism, now he faces jail over bond

Family says last they heard, Salim had been executed in the DRC after killing a soldier

ty they had deposited.

In May and October 2021, Mr Mohamed appeared before the court and explained that Salim had not returned home from work on December 4, 2020.

"I reported the matter to the police under OB 15/5/12/2020 and informed the Anti-Terror Police Unit," he told the court.

Earlier, on February 10, 2021, the court had directed the sureties to liaise with the investigating officer and report on Salim's whereabouts. It held that if the officer confirmed that it was impossible to locate Salim, the sureties' security could be forfeited.

On July 10, 2023, Mr Mohamed informed the court that the family had received information indicating that Salim was being held in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and had been sentenced to death for killing a Congolese soldier.

On May 27, this year, a magistrate's court ruled that there was nothing concrete to show that Salim was deceased, and found that the sureties had failed to discharge their obligations. The court ordered the two sureties to pay Sh1.5 million each, or serve six months in prison.

Dissatisfied with the decision, Mr Mohamed sought a revision in the High Court, asking it to examine



Salim Mohamed Rashid when he appeared before a Mombasa court on June 6, 2019. FILE | NATION

the legality of the orders requiring them to provide proof that Salim was dead.

In a ruling delivered on November 27, the High Court dealt a major blow to Mr Mohamed, concluding that the sureties had indeed failed to fulfil their obligations. The court held that Salim's right to bond had been forfeited and that the applicants, as sureties, were required to pay the full amount.

The court further directed that if

they failed to pay, the two vehicles offered as security should be sold to recover the amount, stating that imprisonment would only follow if the security could not satisfy the debt.

Today, Mr Mohamed is a broken man, caught between grief and the cold machinery of justice. He must now raise the money or exchange his freedom for his son's mistakes.

Salim was once the brightest child in the household of Mr Mo-

Sh1.5m

Amount Mr Rashid Mohamed is required to pay after his son Salim failed to appear in court

hamed, a Mombasa businessman. From an early age, he carried his family's hope of becoming one of the country's top engineers. His school records show that from the moment he was enrolled, he consistently topped his class.

Raised in Kizingo, Mombasa, Salim progressed from Qubaa Nursery to Qubaa Primary before transferring to Abu Hureira Academy, where he sat his KCPE in 2010. His results were exceptional, earning him admission to a private secondary school in Mombasa in 2011. When he sat his Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education exams in 2014, he was among the top students, scoring a straight A.

Throughout his schooling, and even upon his selection to join Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Salim had no criminal record and had never exhibited any signs of indiscipline.

"He was only known for his excellent academic performance," his father previously told the *Nation*.

When Salim declined the JKUAT

offer, his father enrolled him at the Technical University of Mombasa for an engineering course. When he failed to complete it, he was placed in a local computer course, still without raising concern. But it was during this period, as he moved from one cybercafé to another, that friends believed something in his life began to shift.

Still hopeful, his father sent him to Turkey for further studies. That hope was short-lived. In 2016, Salim was deported after abandoning his studies in an attempt to join the Islamic State fighters in Syria. He was arrested in the company of a woman suspected of involvement in terrorism and was returned to Kenya to face terror-related charges.

After a two-year trial, he was acquitted in 2017 and resumed life with his family in Mombasa. In 2019, he was arrested in Kwale with materials used to make explosives. A year later, in October 2020, he disappeared again.

Then came the shocking transformation—Salim reappeared in an Al Shabaab propaganda video, not as the brilliant student he once was, but as "the ISIS butcher", a rising face of global extremism. His run came to an end in the DRC, where he and two associates were arrested by the Armed Forces of the DRC. He was accused of killing a soldier and was swiftly sentenced to death.

Back home, his family hoped the Kenya government would engage its Congolese counterpart to bring him back to serve his jail terms in Kenya, but that never happened.

By the age of 28, he was among five terror suspects for whom the police issued a reward of Sh10 million on November 9, 2021.

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County News

NAIROBI

Chief lauds youth groups for improved security in Kayaba, environmental conservation

BY SAMMY KIMATU

In a rare display of community spirit, a chief pulled out all the stops to host a grand thanksgiving ceremony for more than 400 youths working for the ClimateWorx environmental programme due to the improved security in Kayaba slums.

Kayaba Chief Edward Murunga, who organised the event, said that he felt compelled to appreciate the youths for the impressive progress they have

made in recent months.

He said that there was notable improvement in security in two major slums in Mukuru.

Residents said that the thanksgiving ceremony was good gesture, and a morale boost for the youths who have brought about positive transformation within the informal settlements.

The colourful event, which was held at Kayaba Chief's Camp in South B Division, Starehe Sub-County, brought together hundreds of volunteers who

have dedicated their time to cleaning and rehabilitating the Ngong River's riparian environment—a region long associated with pollution, crime and neglect.

Chief Murunga said that the clean-up efforts have contributed not only to a better environment, but also to a safer and cohesive community.

The youths were drawn from two cohorts enrolled in the ClimateWorx programme—a government initiative aimed at empowering young peo-

ple through environmental restoration, urban cleanliness and climate mitigation activities.

Cohort One comprises 276 youths, while Cohort Two consists of 172 participants—bringing the total to 458 active members committed to daily clean-up tasks along the Ngong River.

"The aim of this event is to thank the more than 400 youths working in President William Ruto's ClimateWorx programme for transforming the environment," Mr Murunga said.

"Since the inception of the programme, crime in Kayaba, Bundalangi and Tetra Pak slums has drastically reduced. Our youths are very busy doing clean-ups along the riparian land, and they are paid by the government. This is encouraging," the chief added.

He attributed the improved safety to coordinated efforts between local administrators, Nyumba Kumi committees, village elders, security agencies and the youth.

Justice

Hearing of ex-senator Orwoba's salary case suspended

BY SAM KIPLAGAT

The Court of Appeal has suspended a petition by former nominated senator Gloria Orwoba who sued Parliament for unlawful stoppage of her salary, sexual harassment, discrimination and abuse of office by the Clerk of the Senate.

A bench of three judges of the appellate court noted that the issues raised by the Senate, including whether the Employment and Labour Relations Court has the authority to entertain a dispute implicating the Powers and Privileges of Parliament in regulating the conduct of a Member of Parliament, was significant.

The Senate also submitted that the issues raised by the former senator had been determined by the High Court last year.

Constitution violation

"These are not trivial points; they call for examination at the appellate stage. We are therefore satisfied that the intended appeal is arguable."

While suspending the case, which is pending judgment on December 18, the court noted that the appeal filed by the Senate will determine whether or not the Employment and Labour Relations Court has jurisdiction to proceed with it.

Ms Orwoba moved to court early this year seeking various declarations. She argued that the withholding of her salary by Parliament violated articles 40, 41 and 47 of the Constitution.

The former senator further submitted that the conduct of the Clerk of the Senate Mr Jeremiah Nyegenye amounted to gross misconduct and abuse of office. She also wanted the Parliamentary Service Commission to investigate the complaints she made against Mr Nyegenye and to be paid damages for the alleged violations.

A year later, Eldoret struggles to meet key upgrade conditions

City manager says waste management, traffic congestion still problematic

BY BARNABAS BII

A year after Eldoret was awarded a charter to become Kenya's fifth city, the management has admitted facing a number of challenges.

Eldoret City Manager Elzeba Busienei said that managing solid waste remains problematic and that the sewage system needs upgrading. Other tasks, such as beautifying streets and highways, providing adequate social amenities, constructing pedestrian-friendly pavements and implementing a Traffic Management Plan, have not been accomplished.

Kenya's newest city has also not operationalised a national museum that is already in place.

"We have developed a road map that will guide our policies in fixing the benchmarks that will see the city emerge as one of the best on the continent," said Ms Busienei.

"We have made some progress in solid waste management. In our infrastructure development master plan, we require a closed drainage system, effective solid waste management and recycling to generate manure," she added.

When President William Ruto awarded Eldoret, which is fondly referred to as the "City of Champions" its charter on August 15, 2024, he told the leadership to prepare for challenges in service delivery.

"As the City of Champions, it is essential that Eldoret focuses on the greater opportunities and significant challenges ahead, because it has what it takes to emerge as the ultimate city of the future," President Ruto said.

According to the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census, Eldoret is the fifth most populat-



Governor Jonathan Bii has installed traffic lights on some streets in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County. JARED NYATAYA | NATION

ed urban area in Kenya after Nairobi, Mombasa, Nakuru and Ruiru.

The Urban Areas and Cities Act (2011) requires a minimum population of 250,000 for an urban area to qualify for city status.

Ms Busienei said beautification efforts—including planting trees and flowers—are underway in the Central Business District and along highways as part of the city's greening initiative. She added that stakeholders will be engaged to ensure accountability and maintenance of green spaces.

Property owners have also been instructed to construct ramps to ease access for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), install CCTV cameras to boost security, and ensure part of their land has tree cover.

"The buildings must be properly lit and have ramps to facilitate ease of entry by PWDs and the elderly. Installation of CCTV cameras is encouraged to improve security, and all existing and proposed developments must ensure a portion of their land is under tree cover within the next six months," Ms Busienei said.

Residents, however, have raised concern about delays in operationalising of the national mu-

seum built at the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) arboretum as part of the city's mandatory benchmarks.

"We fail to understand why the museum has remained closed since it was constructed. It was meant to benefit residents as one of the benchmarks for city status," said Ms Leah Jepkorir, a resident.

The municipality and county government are also expected to implement a Traffic Management Plan to ease congestion. Traffic lights have been installed along the main Eldoret-Uganda highway and other stra-

tegic points.

"We want to ensure smooth flow of traffic. The county and national governments will carry out awareness campaigns on how drivers should observe the new traffic regulations," Governor Jonathan Bii said.

He directed long-distance vehicles to use the Southern Bypass to ease snarl-ups along the Northern Corridor, which cuts through the city.

The 32-kilometre bypass, funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB) at Sh5 billion, has remained underutilised more than two years after the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) designated it a transit route under the East African Community Customs Management Act (2004).

The city's management wants to ban trucks from using the Trans-Africa Highway (commonly known as the Nairobi-Malaba road), which passes through the CBD, to further reduce congestion.

"There are plans to operationalise a new policy requiring all trucks and transit vehicles to make maximum use of the Southern Bypass to minimise traffic jams and attract investment for economic growth," Ms Busienei said.

We have developed a road map that will guide our policies in fixing the benchmarks that will see the city emerge as one of the best on the continent

Eldoret City Manager Elzeba Busienei



A Gazette Notice dated December 16, 2022, formally declared the bypass a transit route under Section 12 of the East African Community Customs Management Act (2004). The route—Cheplaskei-Kapseret-Lemook Swamp Bridge-Sosiani River Bridge-Maili Tisa—serves long-haul trucks linking the Port of Mombasa to East and Central Africa.

Eldoret City Board chair Julius Kitur has petitioned the County Assembly to pass legislation restricting heavy commercial vehicles from entering the CBD.

"We need to regulate traffic in our city by enacting regulations barring heavy commercial vehicles from operating within the city," he said.

Residents are also feeling the financial pressures that come with the city status. The Eldoret Water and Sanitation Company (Eldowas) has increased water tariffs by 300 per cent following a legal tussle.

Three months ago, the Environment and Land Court in Eldoret struck out a petition challenging the new tariffs, ruling that the matter fell outside its jurisdiction under the Water Act. Justice Emmanuel Washe lifted earlier suspension orders issued on March 25, 2025, allowing Eldowas to implement the new charges.

Residents—through petitioners Kipkorir Menjo and David Chebet—have appealed the ruling, terming it unwarranted and an abuse of the law.

"As much as residents rejoiced in the elevation to city status, they must now be ready to fund service provision through increased taxes and levies that come with such prestigious rankings," said resident Mary Chepkwony.

Eldowas announced the new tariffs in October 2024, citing approval from the Water Services Regulatory Board (WASREB). The utility said the review would help raise over Sh2.2 billion for infrastructure development.

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STATE OF SIAYA COUNTY 2025



Our commitment to continue building a Siaya where progress reaches everyone

A MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR JAMES AGGREY ORENKO

Today marks my Third State of the County Address (SOCA) since assuming office in August 2022. As such, it is a momentous occasion to reflect on the solemn trust the people of Siaya have placed in us, and to appraise our stakeholders on the grounds covered in fulfilment of our obligations.

The Kenyan Constitution 2010, the living testament of our democratic journey, compels every Governor to issue an Annual State of the County

Address. This Address, therefore, is in compliance with Article 183(3) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, Section 30(2)(k) of the County Government Act 2012 and Clause 4 of Siaya County State of the County Address Act 2020.

SOCA is a solemn obligation of our transparency and accountability as we offer services to the people of Siaya. It is a moment for us to pause and ask: How far have we come? How much further are we willing to travel in order to secure a better future for all?

Three years ago, we embarked on a journey defined by the promise of

Nyalore – a commitment to transformation, transparency and the equitable distribution of resources. Today, I affirm that Siaya County is not just moving; it is surging forward.

The foundation laid over the last three years has proven to be robust, and we are now moving into an accelerated phase of delivering transformative outcomes.

The theme of my address today, “*Advancing the Promise of Devolution: Inclusive Development for All*”, reflects our unwavering focus on cementing our achievements while aggressively pursuing economic oppor-

tunities for every resident of Siaya.

It is our commitment to continue building a Siaya where development reaches the trader in Ugenya, the fisherfolk in Bondo, the farmer in Gem, the student in Alego Usonga, the Jua Kali artisan in Ugunja and the youth in Rarieda, without leaving anyone behind.

The theme reminds us that devolution is not complete until it delivers dignity to the ordinary citizen. Advancing its promise means ensuring that every shilling spent, every road built, every health centre equipped, and every child educated reflects the collective aspirations of our people. It means bringing governance closer, not only in geographical space, but in spirit – making every citizen feel seen, heard and valued. Some of the notable strides we have made since assuming office are briefly captured in this publication. Read on...

Stimulating development: How Siaya is growing under Governor Orenge

Education, Youth, Gender and Social Services

The County Government of Siaya has made significant strides in expanding and improving Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE), under the current administration. A total of 417 ECDE centres are now operational, out of which 220 are fully equipped.

Earlier this year, the Department of Education, Youth, Gender and Social Services spearheaded the launch of a comprehensive Pre-Primary School Feeding Programme, aimed at providing nutritious, locally sourced meals to young learners. The programme currently benefits over 52,000 children in 689 public ECDE centres, offering a diverse and balanced diet that includes fortified porridge and rice. This initiative has significantly improved access, retention, and transition rates, while increasing enrolment, reducing absenteeism, and enhancing active classroom participation.

Our intentional focus on revolutionising our educational infrastructure is highlighted by the ongoing phased construction of the state-of-the-art Model ECDE Centre in Bar Kowino, North Sakwa Ward, at a cost of Ksh53 million. Upon comple-

tion, this flagship facility will serve as a hub of creativity and opportunity, featuring classrooms for PP1, PP2, and playgroup learners; an administrative office; a lactation room; a digital library; a resource centre; a kitchen and dining areas; a multipurpose hall; indoor and outdoor play areas; and specialised learning spaces for children with special needs.

The centre will provide a holistic, inclusive, and nurturing environment where every child can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Our ambition is to progressively replicate this template in the other sub-counties.

We are building a technical training ecosystem aligned with labour market demands and entrepreneurial growth. Siaya County now boasts of having operationalised 30 Vocational Training Centres (VTCs), serving 4,295 learners and reaffirming the strong support for technical and vocational education.

We have employed 24 qualified instructors, and all courses are examined and certified by the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), ensuring that our graduates receive na-

tionally recognised qualifications.

To consolidate these gains, we are improving infrastructure in our VTCs, with the following being some of the key projects currently ongoing at different levels of completion: Construction of a new girls' dormitory at Kisendo VTC in North Gem Ward; renovation of both girls' and boys' dormitories and workshop at Segu VTC in North Ugenya Ward; repair and upgrading of the girls' dormitory at Ndere VTC; construction of a modern sanitation facility at Sigul VTC in East Ugenya Ward; renovation of the administration block at Liganwa VTC; construction of Nyamonye VTC in East Yimbo Ward; and construction of a twin workshop hall at Rera VTC in South Gem Ward, among others.

These projects reflect our unwavering commitment to creating modern, safe, and conducive learning environments for all trainees. We acknowledge the strategic partnerships with organisations such as Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB), Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO), Kenya Biashara Empowerment and Savings Trust (KBEST), and Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan), whose collaborations have provided critical resources, specialised training programmes, and institutional support, strengthening the overall vocational training ecosystem.

As a result, thousands of young people have acquired marketable skills, empowered their communities, and contributed meaningfully to Kenya's economic development. Our youth are being prepared not just for employment but for enterprise, innovation, and leadership in Siaya's economic transformation.

Healthcare and Public Health Gains



Healthcare reform in Siaya has been both structural and outcome-driven. New and upgraded facilities – including maternity wings, surgical complexes, laboratories, and funeral parlours – have improved service delivery.

On Medical Emergency and Referral Services, the county has invested heavily in its emergency evacuation services by bringing in a new fleet of modern ambulances. Five Advance Life Support ambulances have been purchased in the last two years at a cost of Ksh40 million, bringing the total operational ambulances to 11, categorised as follows: Advance Life Support Ambulances (5), Basic Life Support Ambulances (5) and Water/Boat Ambulance (1).

Importantly, public health outcomes are showing marked improvement. HIV prevalence has dropped from 13.2 percent in 2022 to 9.83 percent in 2023, with 93 percent of people with HIV now on treatment. The tuberculosis cure rate has risen to 91 percent, while TB mortality has decreased to seven percent, thanks to targeted interventions and patient support programmes.

Today, Siaya County Referral Hospital boasts of a modern surgical complex with advanced facilities. The complex has been earmarked for further upgrade in a collaboration between the County and the National Government through the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Health, at an estimated budget of Ksh500 million for Phase One.

Other notable projects include the maternity and theatre unit at Ukwala Sub-County Hospital; maternity wing at Ligega Health Centre in Ugunja; and state-of-the-art funeral parlours in Bondo Sub-County Hospital. These are all completed. There are also impactful developments in various sub-county hospitals.

Lands, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development

Our administration has made significant strides in enhancing urbanisation in Siaya County by guiding spatial and physical planning, regulating housing development and overseeing urban growth to ensure sustainable and equitable development. Through the department of Lands, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development, the administration has endeavoured to institute proper public land management to facilitate growth and development.

In strengthening governance, the County Government successfully gazetted three municipalities and four towns, establishing a stronger framework for devolved urban management and infrastructure prioritisation. In addition to Siaya municipality, our administration has overseen the creation of Bondo and Ugunja municipalities, as well as the operationalisation of the four newly established towns: Usenge, Yala, Ukwala and Segu, guided by the provisions of the Urban Areas and Cities (Amendment) Act of 2011. These milestones are vital in not only anchoring local governance but also driving economic growth and ensuring enhanced service delivery at this critical growth nodes of the county.

The Siaya Municipal administration has completed the development of the Siaya municipality spatial and land use plan to guide development within the municipality. We have also constructed and equipped Phase 1 of the Municipal Office Complex, with provision for a social hall. To ensure prolonged trading time, the municipality is now well-lit, courtesy of solar streetlights and high mast lighting at key locations. This has not only improved security around Ahindi Gardens and the Governor's Park, but also saved on costly electricity for street lighting. Our other municipalities of Bondo and Ugunja are also engaged in similar development interventions, including flood control through development of storm water drainages.

To address the inevitable need for accommodation and shelter, our administration has provided facilities and cooperated with the State Department for Housing towards actualising the affordable housing programme in Siaya, with a total of 882 units currently under construction. Upon completion, these units will not only bolster urbanisation but also give our county residents the opportunity to live in dignity. Under the coordination of our lands department, our administration has considered and effected strategic land banking for both immediate and projected development plans. We have, for instance, purchased land for Nyamonye Market under the Economic Stimulus Market Projects and cattle ring; land for Ugunja bus park as well as land for expansion of Sangla dispensary, among others.





STATE OF SIAYA COUNTY 2025

Water, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change

Provision of clean, easily accessible potable water has remained our priority over the years. In the 2024/25 Financial Year, the Department of Water, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change drilled 53 boreholes and shallow wells across the county at a total cost of Ksh106,748,960.74. Notable examples include Ndigwa Secondary School solar-powered borehole in South Uyoma Ward and Kogere borehole in North Ugenya Ward, among others. These initiatives have improved access to clean water for over 122,500 residents across the county.

The administration also desilted three dams and several water pans countywide, including Ufinya Dam in Siaya Township Ward, Kakonya Dam, and Nyahasene Dam. This has enhanced water access for 4,500 residents and contributed to improved health outcomes.

During the same financial year, Ksh11,760,856 million was allocated to support various water supply schemes across the county, further boosting access to water. These include the Got Matar water project in East Yimbo Ward. Additionally, Ksh21,202,396.74 was allocated for 11 pipeline extension projects, improving



water access for an additional 33,000 residents. A notable example is the pipeline extension from Sirandu Primary School to Sirandu Dispensary.

Other interventions involved the protection of seven water springs, including Kodak Spring in North Ugenya Ward and Kuuyo ka Bara in Nina Village, that enabled more than 1,750 residents to easily access clean and reliable water.

The achievements in the water and environment sector were made possible through strong collaboration with multiple development partners and community organisations, including the Siaya Water and Sanitation Project (involving Dorcas Aid International, Maji Milele, North Gem CBO, and the County Government), which is focused on capacity building,



infrastructure development, sanitation promotion, and development of major schemes such as Naya Water Project in South Uyoma Ward and Got Matar in East Yimbo Ward.

Other partners whose support have been remarkable include Off-Grid Sun, Rafiki wa Maendeleo Trust, Friends of Rural Women and Children (FORWAC), Rona Foundation, and the Institute for Law and Environmental Governance (ILEG), among many others.

These partnerships have complemented our county resources, introduced innovative technologies such as solar-powered systems, strengthened community ownership of water facilities and enhanced environmental protection efforts across Siaya County.

Urban Growth and Infrastructure Renewal

Siaya's urban landscape is being transformed with an unprecedented investment in roads, stadiums, and markets. More than 1,500km of roads have been opened, 1,895km maintained, and key town ring roads upgraded to bitumen standard.

New markets such as the Siaya Integrated Modern Market, are set to boost trade volumes. The County Government has provided sites for the construction of Obambo and Siaya Market in Alego Usonga, Riat K'Olema Market in West Asembo Ward, Akala Market in Gem, and Bar Ober Market in Ugenya. The construction of these modern markets under the Economic Stimulus Market Projects (ESP) will ensure a boost in the economic growth of the County. It is also important to note that the Siaya Integrated Modern Market,



whose construction is underway, will be the biggest central trading point in the County, attracting not only local but also foreign traders.

One of the County's jewels is the 20,000-capacity Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Siaya Stadium, now complete with tar-

tan rubber tracks, high mast lighting, modern terraces, and enhanced water systems. The facility was officially opened in January 2, 2025, and has since established Siaya as a sports and creative hub. The Phase II upgrade of the stadium is estimated to cost Ksh500 million, and it is being undertaken through collaboration with the National Government. The completion of this upgrade will elevate the facility to FIFA standards.

Urban governance is also being strengthened, with Bondo and Ugunja granted municipal status, and Usenge, Ukwala, Yala, and Segwa elevated to towns. This reclassification opens doors to better infrastructure, investment attraction, and service delivery.

Overall, this improved connectivity is creating urban growth nodes, stimulating trade, and improving access to services.

Trade and Co-operatives

To ensure proper institutionalisation of our cooperative sector, the Trade and Co-operatives Department has initiated and completed the process of operationalising the Siaya County Co-operatives Development Fund, with the last stage being the gazette of the Siaya County Co-operatives Development Fund Regulations 2025.

The fund will play a significant role in financing our co-operatives to upscale agricultural production and value addition, and to support our Saccos. Towards this, Ksh30 million have been budgeted for in the FY 2025/2026.

It is worth highlighting that the membership in our co-operatives has grown from 78,000 to 109,000 over the period

of our administration, indicating a growing strength and belief in co-operatives movement in Siaya. Similarly, our Saccos have lent a total of Ksh820 million to our economy, and have mobilised savings of Ksh1.2 billion.

Recognising the Jua Kali sector as the cornerstone of economic resilience and grassroots development, and to ensure they are adequately exposed to opportunities, the Department facilitated the participation of the Siaya County Jua Kali Umbrella Association in the 25th EAC Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Trade Fair held in Nairobi in November 2025, under the theme of "Advancing Innovation and Regional Value Chains for Competitive MSMEs Towards Sustainable



Development." Other trade fairs attended include the East African Trade Fair held in Bujumbura, Burundi, where our team showed great performance, securing first place ranking for their innovative products.

opportunities, the project is envisaged to provide a significant economic boost to the county, building a pipeline of skilled youth in nuclear science and related fields. We are in active engagement with the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology in this endeavour.

We have sought and gotten the assurance that the establishment of the plant will be in observance of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) prescribed protocols.

proposed \$500 million project, which once implemented, will not only contribute significantly to the national power grid but also generate electricity for industrial and domestic use. It will position Siaya County, and by extension the nation, among developed regions that produce electricity from nuclear resources. For instance, the United States of America produces approximately 19 percent of its electricity from nuclear sources.

With its potential to create employment

The County Assembly of Siaya: Our recent achievements



Hon. George Okode, MBS, Speaker of the County Assembly.



Mr. Erick Ogenga, Clerk of the County Assembly.

The County Assembly of Siaya takes pride in its contribution to Siaya County's continued growth trajectory, by fulfilling its mandates of overseeing the County Executive, exercising legislative power, and representation. The Assembly has undertaken these cardinal responsibilities by promoting the ideals of devolution, good governance, and the rule of law.

During the reporting period, guided by its primary role of legislation, the County Assembly reviewed existing laws and developed legislative proposals or Bills with direct bearing on the lives and interests of the people of Siaya.

The Siaya County Access to Information Act, 2025

The House approved the Siaya County Access to Information Act, 2025. The Act aims to establish a framework for ensuring citizens' right of access to information held by the County Government of Siaya, as guaranteed under Article 35 of the Constitution of Kenya. It also seeks to promote transparency, accountability, and good governance by enabling individuals to request and obtain information through public participation forums and other channels of engagement.

The Siaya County Widows Protection Act, 2025

To address the unique challenges widows face, particularly concerning inheritance rights, economic empowerment, and protection from abuse and discrimination, the House passed the Siaya County Widows Protection Act, 2025.

The Act, the first of its kind in Kenya, is focused on safeguarding the dignity of widows. It establishes a framework to safeguard and promote the rights, privileges, general welfare, and development of widows within Siaya County. The specific objectives of the Act are as follows:

- To establish committees to protect and promote the rights and privileges of widows;
- To establish a fund to promote the economic and social empowerment of widows;
- To create awareness and social mobilisation on the rights and freedoms of widows;
- To develop programmes to promote the welfare of widows; and
- To protect widows from participating in forced retrogressive cultural practices.

Section 16 of the Act establishes the Siaya County Widows Welfare Fund, which will offer low-interest loans to registered self-help widow groups to facilitate social and economic empowerment. The fund will also support the training and education of widows in Vocational and Technical Training Centres.

The new law establishes the County

Directorate of Widows Affairs, which shall, among other things, assess and review all county policies relating to widows and advise the County Government and other stakeholders on all matters pertaining to their welfare.

Siaya County Livestock Sale Yard Act, 2025

Though livestock farming and trade are among Siaya County's economic pillars, contributing significantly to rural livelihoods, livestock sales yards have traditionally operated informally. Noting this, and to create a structured framework that supports both farmers and traders while positioning livestock as a strong pillar of Siaya's economy, the County Assembly recently passed the Siaya County Livestock Sale Yard Act, 2025.

The law aims to establish a comprehensive legal and institutional framework for the development, management, and modernisation of livestock sale yards within the County.

This legislation will be key in addressing key challenges, including animal traceability, disease control, and livestock theft across the county.

Courtesy of this legislation, the County will unlock the full potential of the livestock sector through the provision of essential infrastructure designed to support efficient, safe, and dignified livestock trading, disease surveillance, curb the sale of stolen livestock, regulate the sale of livestock, leading to increased income, job creation, and overall economic growth across the county.

Oversight

In fulfilment of our constitutional oversight mandate and our commitment to promoting transparency, accountability, and prudent use of public resources, the County Assembly successfully considered and approved 15 audited reports for the Financial Year ending June 30, 2024.

These include the audits for the Siaya County Alcoholic Control Fund, the Climate Change Fund, the Emergency Fund, the Bursary Fund, SIBOWASCO, the County Executive, as well as audits for Bondo, Siaya County Referral, Rwambwa, Yala, Madiany, Uyawi, Ukwala, Got Agulu, and Ambira Level 4 Hospitals.

By diligently processing and approving these reports, the Assembly has strengthened financial governance, enhanced service delivery, and ensured that public entities remain accountable to the people of Siaya.

The milestones of the County Assembly during this reporting period were made possible by the efficiency of the House Committees. Serving as the engine of Assembly work, these Committees have continued to discharge their mandates with dedication and unwavering commitment to upholding the highest standards of public finance management for the benefit of the people of Siaya.

International



WHO: Over 100 killed in attacks on Sudan hospital, kindergarten

GENEVA, MONDAY

More than 100 people, including dozens of children, were killed in attacks on a kindergarten in Sudan that continued even as parents and caretakers rushed the wounded to a nearby hospital, the World Health Organization said on Monday.

Health facilities in Sudan have repeatedly come under attack near the frontlines of the country's 2-1/2-year civil war. A massacre also occurred in October in the city of al-Fashir, Reuters reported.

The latest attacks on December 4 began with repeated strikes on a kindergarten in South Kordofan state, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on X. "Disturbingly, paramedics and responders came under attack as they tried to move the injured

114

WHO says heavy weapons were used and that 114 people, including 63 children, were killed and 35 wounded.

from the kindergarten to the hospital," he said.

Sudan's Foreign Ministry condemned the attacks that it said were carried out by the Rapid Support Forces using drones.

The WHO database said heavy weapons were used and that 114 people, including 63 children, were killed and 35 wounded.

A WHO spokesperson said the toll combines casualties from the kindergarten strikes, the transfer of patients to the adjacent rural hospital, and attacks at the facility itself. Most children were killed in the initial strike, while parents and medics were later among the victims, he added.

The RSF did not immediately respond to requests for comment. It has previously denied harming civilians and said that it will hold its forces to account for any violations.

Survivors have since been moved to another hospital, and urgent appeals are being made for medical support and blood donations, Tedros said. (Reuters)

Plan Sharaa says transitional period would continue for four more years



Syrian army members take part in a military parade in Aleppo, Syria, yesterday, to mark the first anniversary of Bashar al-Assad's fall. PHOTO | REUTERS

Syria marks one year since Assad's ouster

New president has promised to replace Assad's brutal police state with an inclusive, just order

DAMASCUS, MONDAY

Syrians marked the first anniversary of the overthrow of Bashar al-Assad and his iron-fisted rule on Monday, as the fractured nation struggles to find stability and recover after years of war.

Official celebrations are planned for the central Umayyad Square in Damascus, which has been packed with jubilant gatherings ahead of December 8, and in other parts of the country. Military parades are also expected.

Assad fled Syria for Russia a year ago as rebels commanded by Syria's new president, Ahmed al-Sharaa, seized Damascus and ended his rule, more than 13 years into a war that spiralled out of an uprising against Assad.

Sharaa marked the occasion by performing dawn prayers at Damascus' Umayyad Mosque, according to the official SANA news agency. He was dressed in military fatigues like those he wore during the victorious rebel campaign spearheaded by his Islamist Hayat Tahrir al-Sham

group, the news agency reported. Sharaa promised to build a just and strong Syria.

"From north to south and from east to west, God willing, we will rebuild a strong Syria with a structure befitting its present and past," he said, according to SANA.

Sharaa, a former al Qaeda commander, has ushered in big changes which have reshaped Syria's foreign ties. He has forged relations with the U.S., won support from Gulf Arab states and Turkey, and turned away from Assad's backers Iran and Russia. Crippling Western sanctions have largely been lifted.

Sharaa has promised to replace Assad's brutal police state with an inclusive and just order.

The United Nations' deputy special envoy for Syria, Najat Rochdi, said Assad's toppling marked "the first real chance in generations" to reshape the country's future.

In Aleppo, the first major city to fall to Sharaa's forces last year, cars paraded through the streets honking their horns, with passengers waving Syria's new flag.

"We started loving the country. We didn't love the country before, we used to try to escape from it," said Mohammed Karam Hammami, an Aleppo resident.

But hundreds of people have been killed in bouts of sectarian violence, causing new dis-

placements and fuelling mistrust among minorities towards Sharaa's government, as he struggles to bring all Syria back under Damascus' authority.

The Kurdish-led administration that runs the northeast banned gatherings or events on security grounds, citing increased activity by "terror cells" seeking to exploit the occasion. It congratulated Syrians on the anniversary.

The Kurdish-led administration has sought to safeguard its regional autonomy, while in the south, some Druze - followers of a minority sect that is an offshoot of Islam - have been demanding independence in the southern province of Sweida since hundreds of people were killed there in deadly clashes in July with government forces.

Sharaa told a forum in Qatar

From north to south and from east to west, God willing, we will rebuild a strong Syria with a structure befitting its present and past

President Ahmed al-Sharaa



BRIEFLY

ABUJA

Nigeria assists Benin in counter-coup operation

At Benin's request, Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu ordered the Nigerian armed forces to help Benin dislodge coup plotters, the president's office said in a statement on Sunday. Benin requested immediate Nigerian air support, the deployment of Nigerian Air Force assets within Beninese airspace, and Nigerian ground forces to help protect its constitutional order and institutions, and to ensure the security of the population, the statement said. Nigeria's Chief of Defense Staff, Olufemi Oluyede, said that all the requests had been fulfilled. "It took some hours before the government's loyal forces, assisted by Nigeria, took control and flushed out the coup plotters from the National TV," the statement said. Ecowas said it had ordered the deployment of its standby force to Benin to maintain constitutional order and territorial integrity. (Xinhua)

NAIROBI

Protests: TZ urges citizens to stay home today

Tanzania's prime minister urged people to stay at home on Tuesday, when activists have called for protests against the violent suppression of anti-government demonstrations around October elections. The United Nations has said hundreds of people were likely killed in the protests, which were fuelled by the exclusion of leading opposition candidates. President Samia Suluhu Hassan was declared the winner of the presidential poll with nearly 98% of votes. After calls circulated last month on social media for protests on December 9, the day mainland Tanzania won its independence from Britain, Prime Minister Mwigulu Nchemba announced there would be no official celebrations this year. Speaking on Monday in a video posted on the government information centre's X account, he urged people to stay home, without directly referring to the expected protests. (Reuters)

Business 0.8%

Starlink's current market share

Starlink regains lost Kenya customers

BY VINCENT OWINO

Elon Musk's satellite internet provider Starlink has finally regained the subscriptions it lost in Kenya when its capacity was strained, but it has yet to reclaim the market share it shed amid stiff competition from local players.

In the quarter to September, Starlink added 2,045 new subscriptions, raising its total user base to 19,470 and surpassing the previous peak of 19,146 recorded in December 2024, which had given it a 1.1 percent share of Kenya's fixed internet market.

Although this marks the fastest positive growth Starlink has reported in Kenya since January, the rebound has not lifted its market share, which had slipped to 0.8 percent in June after six consecutive months of declining subscriber numbers.

Data from the Communications Authority of Kenya shows that Starlink's share of the fixed internet market stagnated at 0.8 percent in the quarter to September, tying with Vijiji Connect, as some local competitors expanded their presence.

Market leader, Safaricom, added 79,288 fixed internet customers during the period, raising its market share to 35.6 percent from 34.3 percent in June. Others, including Jamii Telecoms (Faiba), Ahadi Wireless, Vilcom Network, and Mawingu, also significantly increased their subscriber numbers, strengthening their market positions and posing stiff competition to Starlink, which had disrupted the Kenyan internet market upon entry.

Overall, total fixed internet subscriptions in Kenya rose by 147,150 in the three months to September, from 2.14 million to 2.29 million, but more than half of the new customers joined Safaricom, with Starlink accounting for just 1.4 percent of the additions.

Starlink initially recorded rapid growth after entering Kenya, claiming 0.5 percent market share by September 2024, and doubling it within three months.

JSC tops 2025 FiRe Awards in financial reporting excellence



Chief Registrar of the Judiciary and Secretary to the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) Winfridah Mokaya (centre), together with JSC Acting Registrar Isaac Wamaasa (right), receive this year's FiRe Awards during a gala dinner on December 5 in Nairobi. The Commission emerged the overall winner in the 2025 Financial Reporting (FiRe) Awards under the Constitutional Commissions and Independent Offices category.

PHOTO | POOL

Agriculture Inefficient machinery drives up costs, widening payout gap

West Kenya factories spend Sh32 extra to produce tea

Mt Kenya plants cut production cost 3pc as Rift counterparts saw theirs rise 18 pc

BY PETER MBURU

Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) factories located west of the Rift Valley (WoR) spend an extra Sh32 to produce a kilogramme of tea compared to those located in the east (EoR), signifying the pain for farmers who have to shoulder the higher cost of production.

A report by the Tea Board of Kenya (TBK) shows that it costs factories in the WoR, where 70 percent of the KTDA-run factories are based, some 31 percent more to produce a kilo of tea compared to those operating in the EoR region.

"It is apparent that the cost of production in the WoR factories is 31 percent higher (Sh32.08 per Kg of made tea) as compared to the cost of production of tea factories from the EoR," TBK Chief

Executive Officer Willy Mutai said in a presentation to the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock.

KTDA's EoR factories are located in Kiambu, Murang'a, Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Embu, and Meru counties. The WoR, on the other hand, includes factories in Kericho, Bomet, Nyamira, Kisii, Nandi, Vihiga, and Trans Nzoia counties.

The TBK, in its presentation, blamed high transportation costs and the use of archaic equipment by the factories for raising costs and denying farmers better returns.

This year, it cost factories in the Rift Valley and Western an average of Sh134.35 to produce a kilo of tea, against an average cost of Sh102.27 for a kilo of tea produced in Mt Kenya, details from the TBK show.

"Whereas some factories, es-

VALUE

31pc

More that factories west of Rift pay to produce a kilo of tea than east of Rift factories

pecially in the EoR (Zones 1 to 7), have fared well in managing the costs of production, the other factories, most of which are in the WoR (Zones 8 to 12), are still faced with high production cost.

"This means that factories in the WoR, which realise lower tea prices and have relatively higher costs of production, end up with lower net income and therefore pay less bonus to their farmers," TBK told the committee.

TBK evaluated why tea farmers in Mt Kenya zones earned more than their counterparts WoR. It reviewed cost items including energy, labour, transportation, and administrative ex-

penses.

The regulator also looked at operational issues within factories, including the efficiency of machinery in use, noting that factories with efficient machinery and operations realise a lower cost of production and pay farmers higher.

Overall, TBK noted that the year to June had a 7.65 percent increase in the cost of production for tea factories due to an increase in the cost of energy, labour, and administration as compared to the previous year.

Factories operating in Mt Kenya, however, witnessed a three percent drop in the cost of production compared to an 18.2 percent increase in costs for factories in Western and Rift Valley.

"This implies that on average, farmers in the EoR earned more compared to their counterparts in the WoR by Sh7.22 per Kg of green leaf owing to efficiency in management of costs within their factories alone," TBK said.

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BRIEFLY

TAXATION

KRA designates Sagana SEZ a customs territory

The Kenya Revenue Authority has designated the Sagana Industrial City (SA-IC) (SEZ) Limited in Kirinyaga County as a customs area. A customs area is a designated geographic zone where government officials enforce laws on imported/exported goods, people, and currency, ensuring duties are paid and regulations met before goods circulate freely within a country or economic bloc.

Linnet Owoko

ENERGY

Local hydropower output steady amid failed rains

Local hydropower plants are generating electricity at optimum despite the low rains, offering a major boost to the economy amid a fast-rising demand for power. Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen) Managing Director Peter Njenga yesterday disclosed that production of all dams along the Seven Forks scheme is at 473.14 Megawatts (MW) against an installed capacity of 600.4MW.

John Mutua

RETAIL

Crystal Rivers gets new anchor retail tenant

Crystal Rivers Mall has launched its new anchor tenant, Global Supermart, enhancing convenience and boosting footfall and investor interest. The store boosts the mall's commercial resurgence, supports local suppliers, and creates jobs. "We are revitalising this mall to serve as a true community anchor where families, professionals, and visitors feel welcome, connected," said Pauline Kieleko, chairperson, Safaricom staff pension scheme.

Linnet Owoko

Stocks

NAIROBI SECURITIES EXCHANGE

Last 12 Mths	Security	Prices	Shares
High	Low	Yesterday	Previous

AGRICULTURAL

23.00	10.00	Eaagads Ord 1.25	18.30	19.60	1.833
440.00	240.00	Kakuzi Plc Ord. 5.00	401.50	401.50	1
424.25	81.00	Kapchoruar Tea Kenya Plc Ord	209.75	209.50	11.619
465.75	310.00	The Limuru Tea Co. Ord 20.00	460.00	460.00	8
32.60	13.60	Sasini Ltd Ord 1.00	18.00	18.45	17.621
350.00	120.00	Williamson Tea Kenya Plc Ord 500	149.50	150.50	19.179

AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES

63.00	18.50	Car & General (K) Ord 5.00	50.25	50.00	2.167
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BANKING

26.00	10.00	ABSA Bank Ord 0.50	22.05	22.05	404.338
46.90	26.50	BK Group Ord 0.80	42.50	42.40	4.402
118.00	43.05	Diamond Trust Bank Ord 4.00	105.75	110.00	10.313
70.75	33.70	Equity Group Holdings Ord 0.50	60.50	61.00	269.909
11.30	2.80	HF Group Plc Ord 5.00	9.78	9.90	137.474
46.00	15.80	I&M Group Ord 1.00	45.20	45.20	13.435
72.50	15.00	KCB Group Ord 1.00	56.00	56.25	5.685.625
100.00	28.50	NCBA Group Ord 5.00	76.50	76.50	67.939
202.50	90.00	Stanbic Holdings Ord 5.00	190.00	196.00	2.077
347.50	134.00	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ord. 5.00	287.25	287.00	22.861
25.20	10.10	The Co-op Bank of Kenya Ord 1.00	23.15	22.80	366.496

COMMERCIAL & SERVICES

0.45	0.45	Deacons (East Africa) Ord 2.50		0.45	
1.88	0.59	Eveready EA Ord 1.00	1.35	1.32	33.865
10.00	2.70	Express Kenya Ord 5.00	6.84	6.90	11.156
4.66	4.66	Homeboyz Entertainment Plc Ord 0.50		4.66	
9.18	3.30	Kenya Airways Ord 1.00	3.68	3.68	151.529
3.46	2.00	Longhorn Publishers Ord 1.00	2.93	2.95	25.694
5.00	1.49	Nairobi Business Ventures Ord 1.00	1.51	1.50	31.868
22.40	10.60	Nation Media Group Plc Ord. 2.50	12.75	12.55	1.807
17.00	1.80	Sameer Africa Plc Ord. 5.00	13.40	13.35	12.627
10.80	4.50	Standard Group Ord 5.00	5.96	5.96	1.039
18.70	10.85	TPS Eastern Africa Ord 1.00	14.20	14.70	2.377
1.60	0.16	Uchumi Supermarket Ord 5.00	1.76	1.60	663.990
3.95	1.80	WPP ScanGroup PLC Ord. 1.00	2.59	2.75	7.150

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	48.15	52.00	5.507
3.27	0.72	E. A. Cables Ord 0.50		1.71	
101.00	4.38	E.A. Portland Cement Ord 5.00	79.00	83.25	781

ENERGY & PETROLEUM

10.65	1.94	KenGen Ord 2.50	8.26	8.72	1,194.452
15.80	1.30	KP & LC Co Plc Ord. 250	11.95	12.00	573.646
4.20	4.00	KP & LC Plc 4% Pref. 20.00		4.96	
6.00	6.00	KP & LC Plc 7% Pref. 20.00		6.00	
47.00	14.55	TotalEnergies Marketing Kenya Ord 5.00	35.80	36.80	2.727
24.75	6.30	Umeme Ltd Ord 0.50	6.74	6.60	118.243

INSURANCE

9.28	4.01	Britam Holdings Ord 0.10	8.66	8.68	42.351
5.50	1.60	CIC Insurance Group Ord. 1.00	4.34	4.43	102.511
332.00	142.00	Jubilee Holdings Ord 5.00	305.25	308.25	1.024
3.77	1.05	Kenya Re Insurance Ord 2.50	2.87	2.90	735.360
12.20	3.30	Liberty Kenya Holdings Ord 1.00	10.20	10.30	57.736
11.00	4.00	Sanlam Kenya Ord 5.00	8.62	8.48	2.693

INVESTMENT

16.75	7.60	Centum Investment Co Ord 0.50	13.10	13.65	13.887
1.83	0.27	Home Afrika Ltd Ord. 1.00	1.12	1.12	195.636
1,500	1,500	Kurwitu Ventures Ltd Ord. 100.00		1,500.00	
8.22	1.91	Olympia Capital Holdings Ltd Ord. 5.00	7.50	7.50	640
1.78	0.29	Trans-Century Plc Ord. 0.50		1.12	

INVESTMENT SERVICES

21.20	5.22	Nairobi Securities Exchange. Ord 4.00	17.30		17.25 38.887
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MANUFACTURING & ALLIED

140.00	65.00	B.O.C Kenya Group Co. Ord 5.00	127.50	127.50	99
495.00	325.00	British American Tobacco Kenya Ord 10.00	432.50	433.50	4.201
31.60	11.00	Carbacid Investments Ord 1.00	26.50	26.80	19.365
50.00	100.00	East African Breweries Ord 1.00	230.00	225.00	63.911
2.33	0.86	Flame Tree Group Holdings Ord 0.825	1.68	1.62	73.220
80.00	10.40	Africa Mega Agricorp Ord 5.00	72.00	72.00	46
0.27	0.27	Mumias Sugar Co. Ord 2.00		0.27	
31.00	12.00	Unjia Group Co. Ord 5.00	23.85	22.15	8.163
8.56	5.90	Shri Krishana Overseas. Plc 0.20	8.10	7.72	1.437

TELECOMMUNICATION & TECHNOLOGY

31.00	11.50	Safaricom Ltd Ord. 0.05	28.85	28.90	6,322.645
20.00	20.00	Lap trust I-Reit Co. Ord 20 .00		20.00	
5800.00	1880.00	Absa New Gold ETF	5360.00	5090.00	133
844.00	761.00	Satrix MSCI World Feeder ETF	874.00	848.00	101

NSE ALL SHARE INDEX 01st Jan 2008 -100 Dwn 0.46pts -179.12NSE 20-Dwn 28.44pts -2962.77 01st sep 2015-4101.67 Dwn 7.50pts 4765.58 NSE 20-S I -30 Aug 2023-1000Up 244pts -1837.80 Dwn 0.76pts to close at 188.85

COMMERCIAL BANK RATES

		Euro	\$	£	C\$	SF	IR	JY	ZR
ABC	buy	150.44	129.10	172.18	93.34	160.51	1.42	83.17	7.59
	sell	151.17	129.50	172.97	93.63	161.21	1.43	83.48	7.65
Absa	buy	150.42	129.20	172.21	93.39	160.60	1.43	83.28	7.62
	sell	150.91	129.40	172.74	93.67	161.25	1.43	83.51	7.64
Co-op	buy	149.90	128.70	171.74	92.35	160.09	1.43	83.00	7.48
	sell	151.25	129.90	173.36	93.21	161.53	1.45	84.00	7.49
Equity	buy	150.53	129.20	172.18	93.58	160.36	-	83.08	7.61
	sell	150.79	129.40	172.46	93.77	160.71	-	83.05	7.63
NBK	buy	150.53	129.10	172.34	93.42	160.74	1.43	83.28	7.63
	sell	150.74	129.50	172.54	93.61	161.05	1.43	83.44	7.64
KCB	buy	150.64	129.15	172.22	92.47	161.22	1.44	83.00	7.60
	sell	151.12	129.55	172.70	92.77	161.85	1.44	84.00	7.63
NCBA	buy	150.50	129.15	172.25	93.45	160.70	1.45	83.20	7.62
	sell	150.75	129.35	172.55	93.60	161.05	1.45	83.35	7.64
Stanbic	buy	150.34	129.05	172.06	93.41	159.20	1.44	83.15	7.62
	sell	150.89	129.50	172.66	93.74	155.74	1.45	83.44	7.73
Prime	buy	151.10	129.00	172.70	93.90	160.90	1.44	83.30	7.64
	sell	151.60	129.50	173.20	94.40	161.40	1.45	83.90	7.74

CBK RATES

	Exchange Rate	Swiss Franc	160.9304
US Dollar	129.2995	100 Japanese Yen	83.3196
1 Sterling Pound	172.6342	1 Swedish Kroner	13.7444
1 Euro	150.6598	1 Norwegian Kroner	12.8154
South African Rand	7.6341	1 Danish Kroner	20.1726
Ksh/USH	27.3628	1 Indian Rupee	1.4379
Ksh/TSH	18.8322	1 Hongkong Dollar	16.6089
Ksh/RWF	11.2529	1 Singapore Dollar	99.8452
Ksh/BIF	22.8524	1 Saudi Riyal	34.4532
1 UAE Dirham	35.2041	1 Chinese Yuan	18.2856
1 Canadian Dollar	93.1016	1 Australian Dollar	85.8807

UNIT TRUSTS

		Daily Yield	Annual Rate
African Alliance Kenya Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	6.36%	6.55%
African Alliance Kenya Enhanced Fund	Kenya Shilling	7.16%	7.40%
Britam Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	9.90%	10.40%
Britam Money Market Fund	USD	4.34%	4.44%
Absa Shilling MMF	Kenya Shilling	7.40%	7.66%
Absa Dollar Fund MMF	USD	3.99%	4.06%
Gulfcap Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.29%	10.79%
Gulfcap Fixed Income Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.54%	11.06%
Gulfcap Shari'ah Fixed Income Fund	Kenya Shilling	6.93%	7.15%
Old Mutual Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.06%	10.59%
Old Mutual Dollar Money Market Fund	USD	5.65%	5.80%
Etica Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.97%	11.59%
Etica Money Market Fund	USD	5.4%	5.59%
CPF Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	7.95%	8.25%
Co-op Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	7.93%	8.26%
Co-op Bond Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.13%	10.66%
Arvoacap Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	9.02%	9.41%
Arvoacap Alimasi Fund	Kenya Shilling	1.39	1.39
Mayfair Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	7.37%	7.65%
Mayfair Fixed Income Fund	Kenya Shilling	16.02	16.02
Enwealth Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.54%	11.07%
CIC Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	8.22%	8.53%
CIC Wealth Fund	Kenya Shilling	7.00%	7.00%
CIC Dollar Fund	USD	4.46%	4.56%
Equity Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	4.91%	5.02%
Kuza Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.20%	10.73%
Kuza Money Market Fund	USD	5.72%	5.89%
Madison Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	9.44%	9.90%
Madison Fixed Income Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.70%	11.29%
Orient Kasha Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.11%	10.67%
Jubilee Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.18%	10.67%
Jubilee Money Market Fund	USD	5.04%	5.15%
Lofty-Corban Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.53%	11.07%
Lofty-Corban Money Market Fund	USD	4.99%	5.10%
Lofty-Corban Bond Fund	Kenya Shilling	13.57	13.57
Cytonn Money Market	Kenya Shilling	11.28%	11.94%
NCBA Fixed Income Fund	Kenya Shilling	7.33%	7.58%
NCBA Dollar Fixed Income Fund	USD	3.80%	3.87%
ICEA LION Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	8.24%	8.59%
ICEA LION Dollar Fixed Income Fund	USD	10.47	10.47
ICEA LION Fixed Income Fund	Kenya Shilling	125.43	125.43
Britam Special Fixed Income Fund (3 months)	Kenya Shilling	9.69%	10.13%
Britam Special Fixed Income Fund (6 months)	Kenya Shilling	9.71%	10.16%
Britam Special Fixed Income Fund (12 months)	Kenya Shilling	9.89%	10.35%
SanlamAllianz Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	8.99%	9.41%
SanlamAllianz US Dollar Fund	USD	5.07%	5.20%
Apollo Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	9.07%	9.49%
Genphis Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	8.31%	8.67%
GenAfrica Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	9.24%	9.63%
KCB Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	8.65%	9.00%
KCB Money Market Fund	USD	4.41%	4.50%
Nabo Africa Fixed Income Fund	USD	6.43%	6.64%
Nabo Africa Money Market Fund	USD	5.78%	5.95%
Nabo Africa Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.99%	11.62%
Nabo Africa Fixed Income Fund	Kenya Shilling	11.63%	12.30%
Dry Associates Money Market Fund	USD	5.52%	5.66%
Dry Associates Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	9.35%	9.77%
Dry Associates Special High Yield Fund	Kenya Shilling	11.51%	12.55%
Faulu Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	9.00%	9.38%

DALALI TRADERS AUCTIONEERS

Auctioneers, Repossessors & Virtual Auction Experts
Kijabe Street, Opp. EA SEED CO. Ltd
P.O. Box 2213-00100, Nairobi Cell: 0728897600, 0714391357, 0706 201630
Email: info@dalalitraders.com | www.dalalitraders.com
Mombasa Branch: Social Security House, Southern Wing, 10th Floor

ONLINE PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by **First Assurance Company Ltd**, we shall sell by Public Auction the under mentioned accident vehicles (Salvages) on **16th December 2025 online from 11:00 am to 1:00pm** through our link (auction.dalalitraders.com)

NO.	M/V REG. NO.	MAKE/MODEL	LOCATION
1	KCF 816U	NISSAN TIIDA	WESTKAM
2	KBV 513H	TOYOTA HILUX	RABS MOTORS
3	KBW 065H	SUBARU FORESTER	AUTOEXTREME KSM
4	KAX 669C	VW PASSAT	MURRAY'S

CONDITIONS OF SALE

- Viewing to be done at the above mentioned premises during normal working days.
- A refundable deposit of **Kshs. 100,000/=** bidding deposit to be paid to **DALALI TRADERS AUCTIONEERS**. Please note that there will be no bidding whatsoever without a bidding deposit.
- The declared purchaser must pay the balance of the purchase price directly to **First Assurance Company Ltd** within seven (7) days from the date of the auction failure to which all the deposit received is forfeited.
- Sale is subject to reasonable reserve prices.
- Strictly no cash transaction during the auction day
- Vehicles are offered for sale as is where is basis
- The declared purchaser will be responsible for the transfer fees and the re-registration process as per NTSA TIMS regulations.

MOTOR VEHICLE FOR SALE BY TENDERING

NO.	M/V REG. NO.	MAKE/MODEL	LOCATION
1	KCY 269K	MITSUBISHI FH215	HEAD OFFICE

CONDITIONS OF SALE

Sealed bids to be submitted physically at **First assurance HQ - Tender box** on or before **15th December 2025 at 12:00 noon**

REGENT AUCTIONEERS

Auctioneers, Official Court Brokers, Court Bailiffs, Process Servers, Repossessors and Estate Agents
New Kireita Building, Kirinyaga Road, P.O. Box 22826 00400 Nairobi.
Tel: 2212577, 2224581, Fax: 2216019, Mobile: 0722 653332, Email: regentauctioneers@gmail.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our clients, chargees we shall sell the under mentioned property by Public Auction

ON TUESDAY 6th JANUARY 2026 AT OUR AUCTION MART NEW KIREITA BUILDING, KIRINYAGA ROAD AT 11.00 A.M

PRIME FIVE BEDROOM TOWN HOUSE SITUATED OFF MUGUMO ROAD, LAVINGTON, NAIROBI COUNTY.

1. All that parcel of land known as L.R NO.3734/635 TOWN HOUSE NO.4 (CONVERTED TO NAIROBI/BLOCK 15/250) HEMPSTEAD VILLAS, LAVINGTON, NAIROBI measuring **0.856 Acres** and registered in the name of **STANSHA LIMITED** of P.O BOX **45096-00100 NAIROBI**. The property fall on **GPS Coordinates 1° 16' 54.7" S, 36° 46' 24.0" E** and is situated off Mugumo Road in Lavington, Nairobi. It is within Hempstead Villas and identifiable as House No.4 and within the neighborhood of Lavington Primary School. The property has access to socio-economic amenities such as schools, shopping facilities and general infrastructure available in Nairobi's Lavington neighborhood. The title is held on leasehold interest for a term of 99 years w.e.f 1.1.2015. Mains Water, electricity and sewer are connected to the property. Access roads are tar surfaced. The property is a three-storey town house of five (5) bedroom situated in a tastefully designed court of six units.

Conditions of Sale

- All intending purchaser(s) are requested to view and verify the details themselves as these are not warranted by the Auctioneer or our clients
- A refundable deposit of **Ksh 500,000/=** must be paid to obtain a bidding number. Please note that **NO** bidding whatsoever without a bidding number.
- A deposit of 10% must be paid in cash, Bankers cheque or RTGS at the fall of the hammer and the balance within 90 days from the date of the auction to the charges advocate.
- Sale is subject to a reserve price.

<https://regentauctioneers.co.ke>

NAIROBI & UP COUNTRY

PERSONAL NOTICES

A109 Lost

LOSS of original title no. LR 37/258/16, IR 23230 Located in Nairobi West.

LOSS of title deed LR 12715/11684

LOSS of title LR No Number NDUMBERI T.1026

LOST title Athi River Blk5/1980 and Blk5/1981

LOST Title Deed Kakamega/Lugari/62

LOST Title Deed LR 36/111/1045-EASTLEIGH SECTION III

LOST title deed no Kiganjo/Gachika/2162 of Samuel Mburu Muchoki

LOST title deed no Kiganjo/Mindoro/2227 of Samuel Mburu Muchoki

LOST Title deed No. Kwale/Vanga/41 Fatuma Mohamed Mkulu

LOST title deed Nyandarua/Ndemi/92

LOST title Kamagambo/Kabuoro 1783/1025/1783 Kamagambo/ Koluoch / 201

LOST Title LR No. 21/1/130

LOST title :MARACH/ELUKHARI /5822

LOST title Nairobi/block 72/59. Call 0721657129

LOST Title Nos. Naivasha/Ol Jorai Phase II/12964 and 12965 Anthony Wang'onga Kimani and Elizabeth Njambi Kariuki

LOST Title Sipilli/Donyoloip Blk 2/891

LOST Title: Trans-Nzoia/Cherangani/1022 Of Sammy Njunga Nyahoro

RECONSTRUCTION of title L.R. No. GLA 2589/1 Bethuel Mwangi Mutoroki (deceased)

PERSONAL SERVICES

A167 Acupuncture

MEN'S Vitality Clinic 0722-242243

PAIN Relief Clinic 0724-044383

A279 Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE
Physical & Land Use Planning Act No. 13 of 2019
EXTENSION OF USE
The registered owner(s) of Land TITLE NUMBER NAIROBI/BLOCK 116/118 at Zimmerman along Kamiti Road, Kasarani sub-county, Nairobi City County proposes to extend its' use to include a Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Safaricom Limited subject to approval by Nairobi City County, Individuals, institutions or members of the public etc. with comments and/or objections to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within fourteen (14) days from the date of this notice to: The County Executive Committee Member, Built Environment and Urban Planning, Nairobi City County, P.O. Box 30075-00100 Nairobi, Kenya Physical Planner: Kelvin Ritho Gitongo Reg. No. 0279

FORM PLUPA/DC/3 (3/23/21)
PUBLIC NOTICE
THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (No. 13 of 2019)
CHANGE OF USE
The Owner of Lr No. 8783/180 situated off Mombasa Road in Athi River Area proposes to change the use of the parcel from Agricultural to Light Industrial (Go Downs) subject to approval by County Government of Machakos, Individuals, Institutions and Organizations etc. with objections/comments to the proposal to forward them in writing within fourteen (14) days of this notice to: The County Executive Committee Member, Physical and Land Use Planning, County Government of Machakos, P.O. Box 262-90110, Machakos, Registered Planner: Reg. No. RPP0161

A279 Notices
REPUBLIC OF KENYA
IN THE CHIEF MAGISTRATES' COURT AT KISII
CIVIL SUIT NO. E482 OF 2022
JOSEPHAT GUTO MOSOMI PLAINTIFF
VERSUS
OGWENO PETER OYIER DEFENDANT
SUBSTITUTED SERVICE ON THE DEFENDANT
To: **OGWENO PETER OYIER**
TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued as the Defendant at the Chief Magistrate's Court at Kisii. The court has ordered that you be notified through an advertisement. You can get a copy from the Court or the Plaintiff Advocate's office. If you do not enter appearance, the case will proceed, and the court may make decisions in your absence.
DATED at Kisii this 8th day of December, 2025.
TAKEN OUT BY:
T.O Nyangosi & Company Advocates,
Kawahawa House, Suite 46,
P.O. Box 3028-40200, KISII.
nyangosiadv@gmail.com

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
IN THE ENVIRONMENT AND LAND COURT OF KENYA AT KAJIADO
ELCLC CASE NO E059 OF 2024
KAJIADO
Kianda Foundation Educational Trust.....Plaintiff
VERSUS
Daniel Lairbe Tirikog.....1st Defendant
Alex Leila Nguru.....2nd Defendant
Stephen Muturi Ngigi.....3rd Defendant
Rushid Mahumud.....4th Defendant
Musti Investment Limited 5th Defendant
Mboya Charles Ochanda..... 6th Defendant
Dickson Ng'ang'a Kinyanjui..... 7th Defendant
Sammy Muinde Kathilu..... 8th Defendant
Melba Katindikatsivo.....9th Defendant
Ronald Ongoma Musundi..... 10th Defendant
Joseph Ochieng Aera.....11th Defendant
Johnson Lemayia Lante..... 12th Defendant
Mwangi Kirigwa..... 13th Defendant
The Land Registra Kajiado..... 14th Defendant
The Hon. Attorney General..... 15th Defendant

ADVERTISEMENT OF SUMMONS TO ENTER APPEARANCE AND PLAINT.
NOTICE is hereby given that Summons to enter appearance and Plaintiff in Environment and Land Court Kajiado in ELCLC CASE NO E059 OF 2024, seeking an order for declaration that the land parcel number Kajiado/Kaputiei Central/496 belong to Kianda Foundation Educational Trust. A permanent injunction restraining the defendants, their servants, agents, nominees or any other such persons from trespassing, working, selling, partitioning, surveying, disposing off, dissipating or in any manner whatsoever dealing with land parcel number Kajiado/Kaputiei Central/496. An order to cancel titles number: Kajiado/Kaputiei/5264-(3677-6389), Kajiado/Kaputiei Central/5265, Kajiado/Kaputiei Central/5268, Kajiado/Kaputiei Central/5270, Kajiado/Kaputiei Central/5271, Kajiado/Kaputiei Central/5272,-5276-(6275-6293), Kajiado/Kaputiei Central/5274, Kajiado/Kaputiei Central/5275, Kajiado/Kaputiei Central/5760, Kajiado/Kaputiei Central/5261, Kajiado/Kaputiei Central/5262, Kajiado/Kaputiei Central/5263, Kajiado/Kaputiei Central/5266, Kajiado/Kaputiei Central/5267, Kajiado/Kaputiei Central/5269, Kajiado/Kaputiei Central/5273 and Kajiado/Kaputiei Central/5275.

Both to be returned back into names of Kianda Foundation Educational Trust, title number Kajiado/Kaputiei Central/496, an order for investigation, arrest and prosecution of the Land Registrar Kajiado who issued the summons to visit the suit land dated 15th May 2024, an order that the defendants pay general damages (Mesne profits) to the plaintiff from the time of the purported transfer to them of the titles mentioned above until judgment, costs of the suit, interest and any other or further relief the Court may deem fit to grant. The same Summons having been presented to Court on 19th May 2025 and Plaintiff on 28th June 2024 by firm of N.A Owino & Company Advocates.

IF THE DEFENDANTS OR ANY PERSONS DESIROUS TO SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE SAID CASE MAY FILE THEIR DEFENCE OR SUPPORT TO THE CASE PERSONALLY or through their advocates within FOURTEEN DAYS OF THE DAY OF THIS ADVERTISEMENT AND A COPY OF THE SUMMONS AND PLAINT WILL FURNISHED BY THE UNDERSIGNED TO ANY PERSON REQUIRING SUCH COPY ON PAYMENT OF THE REGULATED CHARGES FOR THE SAME.

DATED AT NAIROBI THIS DAY OF 2025

N.A OWINO & COMPANY ADVOCATES FOR THE PLAINTIFF

DRAWN & FILED BY:

N.A OWINO & COMPANY ADVOCATES
LANGE LANGE FLATS APARTMENTS
ALONG JAKAYA KIKWETE ROAD
BETWEEN MIDDLE EAST BANK AND
HERON PORTICO HOTEL

P.O BOX 25478-00603
NAIROBI

EMAIL: n.a.owinoadvocates@gmail.com
PHONE: 0722756648



KEYSIAN AUCTIONEERS

AUCTIONEERS AND COURT BROKERS
Tel: 2245493 / 2216510 | Cell: 0724539419 / 0722768302 / 0722663528
Email: keysian2009@yahoo.com / keysianauct@gmail.com | Website: www.keysianauctioneers.com
C.P.F House, 3rd Floor, Haile Selassie Avenue | P.O. Box 2788-00200, Nairobi, Kenya.

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions from our principals, the chargees, in exercise of their statutory power of sale, we shall sell by Public Auction the under mentioned property and all the improvements erected thereon.

1. **SALE ON WEDNESDAY 10th DECEMBER, 2025 AS FROM 11:00A.M IN OUR SALE ON THURSDAY 11th DECEMBER, 2025 AS FROM 11:00AM OUTSIDE UASIN GISHU POST OFFICE.**



All that property known as **TITLE NO. ELDORET MUNICIPALITY BLOCK 6/241 TIRYO SUGARLAND PLAZA, ALONG OLOO STREET, ELDORET TOWN, UASIN GISHU COUNTY** in the name of **SUGARLAND ESTATES LIMITED**. It is a leasehold interest for a term of 99 years w.e.f 1st January, 1992 at an annual ground rent of Kshs. 10,200/= (revisable). The Plot easily identifiable as Tiryo Sugarland Plaza measures 0.0929 Ha or 0.23 Acres and is situated along Oloo Street, Eldoret Town, Uasin Gishu County. The property is developed with a five Storey Commercial Building with 2 No. Basements. Accommodation details consist of: Un - partitioned hall, Power room, Transformer Room & Stairs to on Basement; 1: un - partitioned hall, Gents Cloakroom with 4 No. WC & WHB, Ladies Cloakroom with 4 No. WC & WHB & Stairs to on Basement 2: 2 No. Shops, Bakery, Hotel, Kitchen with double drain sinks & hood & Stairs to on the Ground Floor; 1 No. Hall partitioned into 20 No. Office Spaces/shops, Gents Cloakroom with 4 No. WC, WHB & Urinal, Ladies Cloakroom with 4 No. WC & WHB, Hotel with semi - partitioned kitchen & 2 No. Cloakrooms & Stairs to on the 1st Floor; Un - partitioned hall, Gents Cloakroom with 4 No. WC, WHB & Urinal, Ladies Cloakroom with 4 No. WC & WHB & Stairs to on the 2nd Floor; Un - partitioned hall, Gents Cloakroom with 4 No. WC, WHB & Urinal, Ladies Cloakroom with 4 No. WC & WHB & Stairs to on the 3rd Floor and Reception, 15 No. Office spaces/lecture rooms, Kitchen with single drain sink, Gents Cloakroom with 4 No. WC, WHB & Urinal & Ladies Cloakroom with 4 No. WC & WHB on the 4th Floor. All mains are connected.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

- All interested bidders are requested to view the property and verify the details for themselves as the auctioneers or the chargees do not warrant these.
- Interested bidders must deposit **Kshs. 1,000,000.00** in **CASH OR BANKERS CHEQUE** with the auctioneer before being allowed to bid.
- Sale is subject to a reserve price, and the auctioneer reserves the right to reject any bid without giving any reasons for doing so.
- Interested bidders are requested to view the property between 10.00 am and 5.00pm and our office will assist the bidders to point out the property subject to prior arrangement.
- 10%** of the purchase price must be paid to the auctioneer at the fall of the hammer and the balance to be paid in **90 days** to the chargees.



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DAILY NATION

THE NATIONAL LAND COMMISSION

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ALLOCATE LAND

To The General Public and any other interested parties

NOTICE is hereby given that at the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, the National Land Commission (NLC), on behalf of the County Government of Nyeri intends to regularize tenure of **NYERI MUNICIPALITY BLOCK 1/ 1864** in Nyeri County measuring **0.9218 Ha** for Residential use (Subject to terms, Covenants, conditions and reservations which shall be included in the conveyance documents) in accordance with Section 14 of the land Act 2012.

Any interested person wishing to raise any comments may do so to the Chairman, NLC within 15 Days from the date of Publication of this notice.

In the absence of any valid objections, the allocation shall take place at the **Commission's office in Nairobi (316 Upper Hill Chambers 2nd Ngong Avenue)** as from **2.30 p.m.** on the next working day following the expiry of this notice.

The terms of allocation are available at the Commission's offices in Nairobi and the office of the NLC County Coordinator in Nyeri County.

The Land is planned and surveyed, and ownership details may be inspected at the offices of CECM in charge of Lands for Nyeri County, Director of Surveys in Nairobi and NLC offices during working hours.

Gershom Otachi Bw'Omanwa
CHAIRMAN

PUBLIC NOTICE
PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT No.13 of 2019
EXTENSION OF USER

The Registered owner(s) of LR No. 16115/46 (Orig No.16115/13/1), is proposing to **Extend Use** of the property to include a Telecommunication (GSM Base Station) subject to approval by the County Government of Machakos.

Any individual(s), institution(s) and organization(s) with objection(s) to the proposal are hereby requested to forward them in writing within 14 days of publication of this notice to: **THE CECM-IN CHARGE OF LANDS, PHYSICAL PLANNING, HOUSING, URBAN DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY, COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MACHAKOS, P.O. BOX 1996-90100, MACHAKOS.**

Name of the Registered Planner: **Plan. Peter Kaberere** Reg. No. PP0287.

FORM PLUPA/DC/3 (r.3)(3)(xi) PUBLIC NOTICE
Physical & Land Use Planning Act No. 13 of 2019
CHANGE OF USE

The registered owner(s) of land parcel number Kwale/ Galu Kinondo/2629 located in Diani Municipality of Kwale County is proposing to change use of the properties from **Agricultural to Residential (Multi residential dwelling units)**, subject to approval by the County Government of Kwale. Any Individual, Institutions, Members of the public etc. with comments and/ or with objections to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within **fourteen (14) days** of this notice to: **The CECM- Environment and Natural Resources County Government of Kwale P.O Box 4-80403 Kwale.**

PUBLIC NOTICE
Physical & Land Use Planning Act No. 13 of 2019
CHANGE OF USE

The registered owner of plot No. South Gem / Ndori /2382 located in Alala township, within Siaya County, proposes to change use from **Agricultural to Commercial use** subject to approval by the County Government of Siaya. Individuals, institutions, members of the public with comments or objections to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within **fourteen (14) days** of this notice: **The CECM in charge of Lands, Surveys, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Developments, County government of Siaya. P.O. Box 803 - 40600, Siaya. Reg. Planner Fredrick Omondi Owino Reg.No.0123**

FORM PLUPA/DC/3 PUBLIC NOTICE
Physical & Land Use Planning Act No. 13 of 2019
CHANGE OF USE

The registered owner of LR NO 451/30/IVIII situated in Nakuru East Sub County, within Nakuru County proposes to Change use from **Residential Single Dwelling to Public Purpose (hospital)** subject to approval by County Government of Nakuru. Individuals, Institutions or members of the public with comments and/or objections to proposal are requested to forward them in writing within 14 Days of this notice to: **The C.E.C.M, Lands, Housing and physical planning, County Government of Nakuru P.O Box 2870 NAKURU.**

Registered planner: **Dr. Moses Kale** Registration No: R.PP 0099

PUBLIC NOTICE
Physical and Land Use Planning Act, 2019
EXTENSION OF USER

The Registered Owner of an Existing Residential Plot at **Mwamili Village, Informal Squatter Settlement**, located off Magongo Road within Miritini area, is proposing to Extend Use of the land to include **GSM/Base Transceiver Station**, subject to approval by the County Government of Mombasa. Any Individual(s), Institution(s) or Organizations with Objection(s) to the proposal are hereby requested to forward them in writing within 14 days of publication of this notice to: **The CECM- Lands, Housing & Urban Planning, Mombasa County Government, P.O. Box 81599-80100, Mombasa.**

Plan: **Betty A. Ong'injo | Reg. No. 0248**

PUBLIC NOTICE
Physical and Land Use Planning Act, 2019
EXTENSION OF USER

The Beneficial Owner of Plot No. 15242/II/MN (CR 86695), located off Old Malindi Road, within Utage - Magahawani area, is proposing to Extend Use of the land to include **GSM/Base Transceiver Station**, subject to approval by the County Government of Mombasa. Any Individual(s), Institution(s) or Organizations with Objection(s) to the proposal are hereby requested to forward them in writing within 14 days of publication of this notice to: **The CECM- Lands, Housing & Urban Planning, Mombasa County Government, P.O. Box 81599-80100, Mombasa.**

Plan: **Betty A. Ong'injo | Reg. No. 0248**

Jairos
Cotton Farmers Co-operative Society Limited
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TENDER NOTICE

Jairos Cotton Farmers Co-Operative Society Ltd invites sealed bids from eligible suppliers to tender for the provision of the following items:-

S/ NO.	TENDER NO.	TENDER NAME	ELIGIBILITY
1.	001/12-2025/2026	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF LINT BALE PRESS, COTTON SEED OIL PRESS, SCREW CONVEYOR SYSTEM, DOUBLE ROLLER GIN WITH AUTO FEEDER, COTTON PRE-CLEANER/COTTON OPENER MACHINE AND ELECTRICAL WORKS	OPEN

Completed tender documents sealed in a plain envelope clearly marked Tender No. to be deposited in the tender box situated at the Jairos Office on or before 15th December, 2025 at 10.00am and addressed to:

Interested bidders to submit enquiries via
jairos cottonsociety@gmail.com;
JAIROS COTTON FARMERS CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD
P.O. BOX 74 - 50408 KAMURIAL.

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TEACHING JOB VACANCY

Chuna Preparatory School, Kitengela, is looking to hire teaching professionals in the following categories.

POSITION	Qualification/ Experience
P-1 TEACHER Teaching a minimum combination of any 2 of the learning areas- English; Creative Arts; Kiswahili; Social Studies	Certificate of Primary Education Teacher, Minimum Experience of 3 years, Minimum KCSE C
JSS TEACHER Teaching a minimum combination of any 2 of the learning areas- English; Kiswahili; Social Studies; Pre-technical studies; Creative Arts	Diploma or Bachelor's degree in education (Arts) or Bachelor's degree in education (Science) Minimum experience of 3 years, Minimum KCSE C+

Job applications should entail: Cover letter, Curriculum vitae, Copies of all relevant certificates and a copy of your I.D. Kindly share the applications through email with reference (RE.) to position and combinations you are applying for to: **chunaprepjobs.info@gmail.com** by Friday, 12th December, 2025.

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Visit the following website for more information: **<https://ccgdcentre.org/vacancies-opportunities/>**

N/B; Certificates & testimonials are not required at the application stage.

Deadline for submission of all applications is **30th December 2025.**

TEACHING JOB VACANCY

Chuna Preparatory School, Kitengela, is looking to hire teaching professionals in the following categories.

POSITION	Qualification/ Experience
P-1 TEACHER Teaching a minimum combination of any 2 of the learning areas- English; Creative Arts; Kiswahili; Social Studies	Certificate of Primary Education Teacher, Minimum Experience of 3 years, Minimum KCSE C
JSS TEACHER Teaching a minimum combination of any 2 of the learning areas- English; Kiswahili; Social Studies; Pre-technical studies; Creative Arts	Diploma or Bachelor's degree in education (Arts) or Bachelor's degree in education (Science) Minimum experience of 3 years, Minimum KCSE C+

Job applications should entail: Cover letter, Curriculum vitae, Copies of all relevant certificates and a copy of your I.D. Kindly share the applications through email with reference (RE.) to position and combinations you are applying for to: **chunaprepjobs.info@gmail.com** by Friday, 12th December, 2025.

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KITENGELA 1/8ac 1.7m 0738137908
KONZA prime 50acres 0722843770
MAMBRUI/MALINDI 1/4 acre 3M 0722256653
MIGAA golf 1/4ac 11.5m 738137908.
NAIVASHA 5acre 4m p/ac 0723904073
NDENDERU 1/2ac td 30m 0722889102
NGONG Town 1/8 Acre on tarmac near Bounty Hotel 5M 0733520050 owner
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Death and Funeral Announcement

It's with deep sorrow and acceptance of God's will that we announce the passing of Mr. Henry Njuguna Njoroge.

Son of the late Njoroge Kuria and the late Beth Wagoko Njoroge of Naivasha.

He was the beloved husband of Lucy Wanjiru Ndung'u (ShiruWaNdung'u).

A devoted father of Njoroge Njuguna, Kamau Njuguna, Maina Njuguna, Mwangi Njuguna (PJ), Hon. Joan Nyokabi Njuguna, Shawn Njuguna and Kelly Wagoko Njuguna. Brother of Joyce Nduta Ndungu, Hellen Nyambura Kamau, George Kinuthia Njoroge, Josephine Wanjiku Muriuki, Jacinta Wanjiru Ngigi, the late Mary Wambui and Kiarie Njoroge.

Funeral Arrangements:
Family and friends are meeting daily from 3:30 PM to 7:00 PM at his home in Tigoni, Limuru (near Lakehouse) for prayers and burial preparations.

The cortege will leave Montezuma Monalisa Funeral Home on Thursday, 11th December at 9:00 AM. The funeral service will be held at ACK All Saints Church Kamonde, Limuru. Burial will follow at his home in Tigoni, Limuru.

"The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." Job 1:21

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Mr. Henry Njuguna Njoroge
Sunrise: 24th December 1947
Sunset: 5th December 2025

Celebration of Life

It is with deep sorrow and humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the passing of our beloved father, Philip Mulili Muli.

Philip was a devoted and loving father whose kindness, wisdom, and strength touched all who knew him. He is dearly remembered by his children: sons John Mbithi Muli, Moses Kyallo Muli, Hosea Mwaka Muli, and Dennis Muli Muli; and daughters Mary Njagi and Ruth Musyoki.

He was also a cherished grandfather of Fiona Wanja Njagi, Victor Njagi, Colleen Njagi, Bilha Lelo Kyallo, Abigael Mukene Kyallo, Adrian Kyallo, Moses Kyallo, Ruby Mumo Kyallo, Michael Maundu, Ranita Ndanu Munyao, Rehema Mukene Munyao, Neema Nziva Munyao, Philip Muli Mwaka, Alice Mukene Mwaka, Laleti Mukene Muli, and Naledi Muli Muli.

He was a beloved brother of Kamanthe Matuka and David Muli, and step-brother of Mue Muli and the late Kitaka Muli.

Meetings are being held Konani Hotel in Mukuyuni and Norwich house in Nairobi, 7th floor Room 18, Tuesday 9/12/25.

The cortege leaves Montezuma Monalisa Funeral Home Machakos on Thursday 11/12/25. Prayers will be held at Makongo Primary School, burial will be at his home Kyambalasi Village, Mukuyuni Sub-Location, Ukia Location, Makeni County.

His family mourns his loss while celebrating the remarkable legacy he leaves behind.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Philip Mulili Muli
1st January 1943
1st December 2025

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Death and Funeral Announcement

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the sudden demise of Jere Mutinda Mbondo on 1/12/2025.

Husband of Mary Mune Mutinda, loving dad of Alex Kimeu Mutinda, Rhoda Wavinya Mutinda, Joseph Mbondo Mutinda.

Brother of Jones Musau, Eunice Mumbua, Joyce Munini, Dorcas Mwangeli, Munyao Mbondo (Lulu Light School), the late Ndavi Mbondo, Louise Ndunge and Esther Muthini.

Relatives and friends are meeting daily at his home Kalyambeu village, Kingwise Hotel (Matuu) and Joy Hotel -Voi.

The cortege will leave Montezuma Funeral Home Machakos at 8:00am on 10/12/2025 and thereafter funeral service at his home Kalyambeu village, Ilkombe -Machakos County.

**May his soul rest in eternal peace.
Amen.**



Jere Mutinda Mbondo

Death and Funeral Announcement

It is with profound sadness and humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the death of Madam Hellen Kerubo Oanga Mabiria. Wife of Robert Mabiria Orangi. Daughter of the late (Ezekiel Oanga, Peris Kwamboka, Esther Moraa). Mother of Samwel Orangi, Benjamin Onger, Rhoda Nyasani. Sister of Masemo, Osoro, Nyagala, Margaret, Christopher, Thomas, Mochama, Ondiegi, Kerubo, Peter, Ondoro, Nyakundi, Boraya, Sokoro, Mang'abo. Daughter in law of the late (Orangi Akeya, Milca Kerubo, Mokuu, Ocharo, Nyakangi, Nyaende, Nyanchoka), Sospeter Onchabo, Moraa, Peninnah. Mother-in-law of Sophy, Nancy, Peter. Korera of the late Nafal Magela, Jane Magela, the late (Richard Onyancha, Janet Moraa), Mishael Mandere, Rebecca Mishael. Grandmother of Ezekiel, Sasha, Solaine, Ethan, Seth, Ryan, Rania, Elyanna, Reagan. Sister in law of Oyar, the late (Abineri, Methusela), Obure, Mageto, Moriti, Mosiori, Oganda, Grace, Teresa, Gesare, Moraa, Rael, Loise. Co-wife of Rebecca, Aska, Nyamusi, Mary, Rucia, Grace, the late Nyasiaboka. Kamati of Jesusa, Trusilla, Mary, Everline, Alice, Musimbi, Rose, Karen, Pacifica, Wilter, Caroline, Risper, Wilkster. Aunt of Evans, Gesare's, Morara, Orangi's, Matoke's, Onger's, Nyanduko's, Nyasani's, Ombega's, Lydia, Nyaboke, Oanga's, Peris's, Oganda's, Cousin of Boraya's, Barongo's, Mwaywaya's, Giuma's, Nyagweso's, Mageto's, Ondieki's, Nyakenanda's, Nyangena's. Niece of Nyambusi Ondieki. Main fundraising on 9/12/2025 at Professional Centre (5.00pm). Memorial service on 10/12/2025, at Newlife SDA 5th Ngong Ave (9.00am). The cortege leaves Nairobi on 11/12/2025. Burial date on 12/12/2025 at her rural home Kisii County, Nyamache Sub County, Gesabakwa Location, Nyangusu Sub location, Nyaboterere, Bondonya Village.
Romans 14:8 (NIV) "If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord."



Madam Hellen Kerubo Oanga Mabiria

Sunrise: 01/01/1961 -
Sunset: 27/11/2025

Death and Funeral Announcement

It is with humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the passing on of Evans Githumbi Gitau (Mutang'athi).

Son of the late William Gitau and Damaris Wairimu. Husband of Rose Nyambura Githumbi.

Father of Alexis Wairimu and Adrian Gitau (Nairobi West).

Brother of Loise Njeri Mbuuri, James Wanyoike Loise Wangui Munjuga, the late Alice Wambui, Mary Wanjiku Kimani and George Githura.

Step brother of Fredrick Githumbi Benson Githumbi among others.

Son-in-law of the late Solomon Ndung'u Rie and Sarah Magiri (Sabasaba). Grandfather of Jerom and Eli.

Family and friends are meeting at his home in Nairobi West and at Karai Village, Gatamaiyu daily from 4.00pm.

The cortege leaves Monalisa montezuma Funeral home Mbagathi on Thursday 11/12/25 8.00am, for funeral service and burial at Karai Village, Gatamaiyu, Lari, Kiambu County at 10.00am.



Evans Githumbi Gitau (Mutang'athi)

Death and Funeral Announcement

We are sad to announce the untimely death of Danson Ndichu Kabocha of EdgePoint Philippines on 29th November 2025 in Manila.

Ndichu was the beloved husband of Winnie Wanjiru Gakuna and devoted father of Karla and Katya.

Son of the late Geoffrey and Naomi Kabocha of Pioneer Estate. Son-in-law of John and Grace Gakuna of Kirinyaga Central.

He was brother of Mary Nyambura, Alice Hassan, Leah Njeri, Peter Githua and Priscilla Njoki.

He was brother-in-law of Maria Dativa, James Maina, Anne Gakuna and Alice Nyaguthii. Uncle of Naomi Vollet, Brian Kariuki, Issa Kabocha, Jayden Ethan, Elizabeth Njoki, Kayusi Githua, Naomi Wanjira, Munjuga Githua, Bendina Githua and Trevor Mwangi.

A cousin to many.

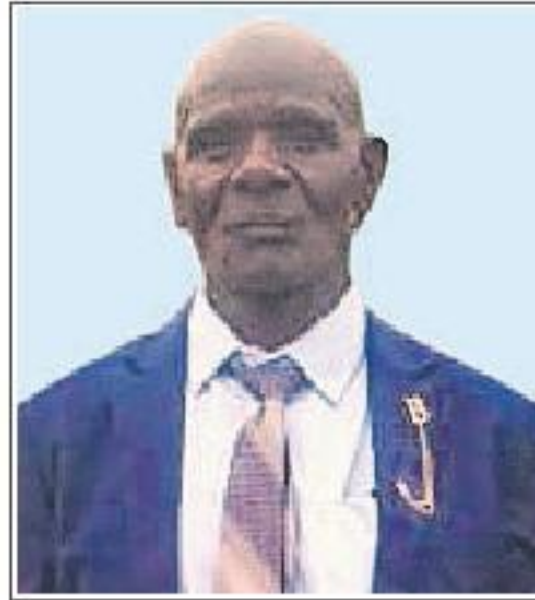
The cortege will leave Kenyatta University Funeral Home, Thika Road on Thursday 11th December 2025 at 7.00a.m. Burial service will be held on the same day at Kibingo Location, Ndimi Sub-Location, Kirinyaga County.

God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid - Isaiah 12:2



Danson Ndichu Kabocha

Death and Funeral announcement



Mzee Patrick Makori Orina
Sunrise: 1947 ~ Sunset: 27/11/2025

It is with great sorrow and sadness that we announce the promotion to glory of our beloved Mzee Patrick Makori Orina of Iranya Village, Gesima Location Nyamira County.

Dear husband of Jemima Kemuma. Son of the late John Orina Maroko and Mama Penina Kerubo. Son in-law of the late Malach Ombuki and Rebecca Nyaboke. Father of Reuben, Esther, Charles, Erick, John and Ronald.

Brother of the late Maroko, Nyamoita, the late Machiegwa, Bosibori, Monda, the late Nyakang'o, Getonto among others. Father in-law of Nancy, Winfrida, Fridah, Hellen and Moraa. Grandfather of Penina, Joyce Malach, Collins, Valentine, Zainabu, Levine, Noleen, Bevin, Brandon, Abigail, Mighel, Angel Brenna, Fortune, Britney among others.

Uncle of George, Joseph, Stanley, Peter, Orinas, kwambokas, Mokuas, Osiemos, Teyas, among others.

The final interment rites and burial will be done at his rural home, Iranya Primary Grounds, Iranya Village Gesima Location on 12th December 2025.

May his soul rest in peace.

Promotion to Glory

It is with humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the promotion to glory of Jael Atieno Arogo, which occurred on 1st December 2025 following a short illness. She was a former employee of Barclays Bank, Nakuru.

Beloved wife of George Otieno Arogo and cherished mother of Monica Achieng Arogo and Cornel Odera Arogo.

Daughter of the late Asher Mitoko Mwalo and Monica Aoko Mitoko, Peninah Adoyo and Rose Auma of Nyalkinyi, Kanyada, Homa Bay County.

Daughter-in-law of the late Valentinus Arogo Omuga, Rosa Arogo and Ernestina.

Sister-in-law of Leo Openda-Shummer & Russel, the late Monica Owende, Lucy Oywa, Junata, Okinyi and Beatrice, Bernard, Contractor Benedict (BEKAM), Rtd Asst Chief Hesborn Arogo and Omuga.

Sister of Nelly Mitoko, Lilian, Musa and Harrison-Nyalkinyi, Kanyada, Homa Bay County.

Niece of Lukas Ochieng Ongudi, Serphine, Jocinter, Agnes and Benta from Ombei Kano, Kisumu County.

Daughter-in-law of Consolata Rabala, Phoebe Ochieng, the late Dorcas, Dora, Edreda Abuori, Alice Kojo.

Funeral service will be held on Tuesday, 9th December 2025 at CITAM Nakuru, followed by viewing at her home in Kiamunyi-Nakuru.

The cortege leaves Umash Funeral Home, Nakuru on Wednesday, 10th December 2025, followed by a funeral service at Oriang' Catholic Church, Homa Bay County.

She will be laid to rest on Thursday, 11th December 2025, at her home in Kariyani Village, next to Omuga Technical Training Institute, Kabondo-Homa Bay County.



Jael Atieno Arogo



Death and Funeral Announcement



Emily Nenkai Nkenchai
(29th March 1987 ~ 4th December 2025)

It is with deep sorrow and humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the untimely demise of Emily Nenkai Nkenchai that occurred on 4th December 2025. Until her death, she was an employee of the Kenya Electricity Transmission Company at Kawi house, Nairobi.

Beloved daughter of Ole Nkenchai Shaii and Narikunkera Shaii.

Wife of Julius Sankale.

Doting mother of Lakeni Harry, Fidel Koileken and Nylan Santeyia.

Loving sister of Namoo, Karapio, Nailois, Karunkan, Simion, Phillip, Dalmas, Saitoti among others.

Sister in-law of Nelson, the late Joseph Koileken, David, Jackson, Carlos, Kantai, Ben, Saris, Leonard, Sayianka, Kamau among others.

Daughter in-law of Ole Sampai Sankale and Kiapunya ene Sankale.

Affectionate auntie, niece and cousin to many.

Prayers and funeral arrangement meetings are being held at their Moita - Kilgoris home every day.

The cortege leaves Montezuma for a home night vigil on 11th December 2025. Thereafter, she will be laid to rest at their Moita farm in Kilgoris on 12th December 2025.

FARE THEE WELL NENKAI

Mathew 5:4 - "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

Funeral Announcement

We are saddened to announce the death of Ruo Kimani-Ruo which occurred on 27th November 2025.

He was the beloved son of the late Paul Kimani-Ruo and the late Keziah Wanjiku Kimani-Ruo.

He was the eldest son in a family of 5 namely, the late Evans Gathobe Kimani-Ruo, the late Ngugi Kimani-Ruo, Geoffrey Mbugua Kimani-Ruo and the late Moses Nyutu Kimani-Ruo.

He was the loving husband of Wambui Kimani-Ruo and devoted father of Joy Ruo-Vogt, Kimani Ruo-Kimani, Nduati Ruo-Kimani and Georgina Ruo-Kimani.

Grandfather of Wambui Kimani, Jasmine Vogt, Liam Emil Nnko and Imani Kimani. Father-in-law of Emil Jumbe Nnko. He was the loving uncle and friend to many.

The cortege leaves Avenue Funeral Home (First Parklands) on 10th December 2025 at 07.00am followed by the burial at his final resting place at his home in Ihindu, Naivasha.

~ In God's hands you rest, In our hearts you remain forever ~



Ruo Kimani-Ruo

"What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us."
- Helen Keller -

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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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Death and Funeral Announcement



Jackson Njiraini Ikenye

Sunrise: 3rd August, 1999 ~ Sunset: 6th December, 2025

It is with deep sorrow and humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the tragic passing of Jackson Njiraini Ikenye of Capital Markets Authority after complications arising from a road traffic accident.

He was the beloved son of Charles Ikenye Njiraini and Ruth Nyokabi Ikenye and a cherished brother of Abigael Njoki Ikenye.

Jackson leaves behind many uncles, aunties and cousins.

He was the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Njiraini and the late Mr. Samuel Karanja and Mrs. Naomi Karanja.

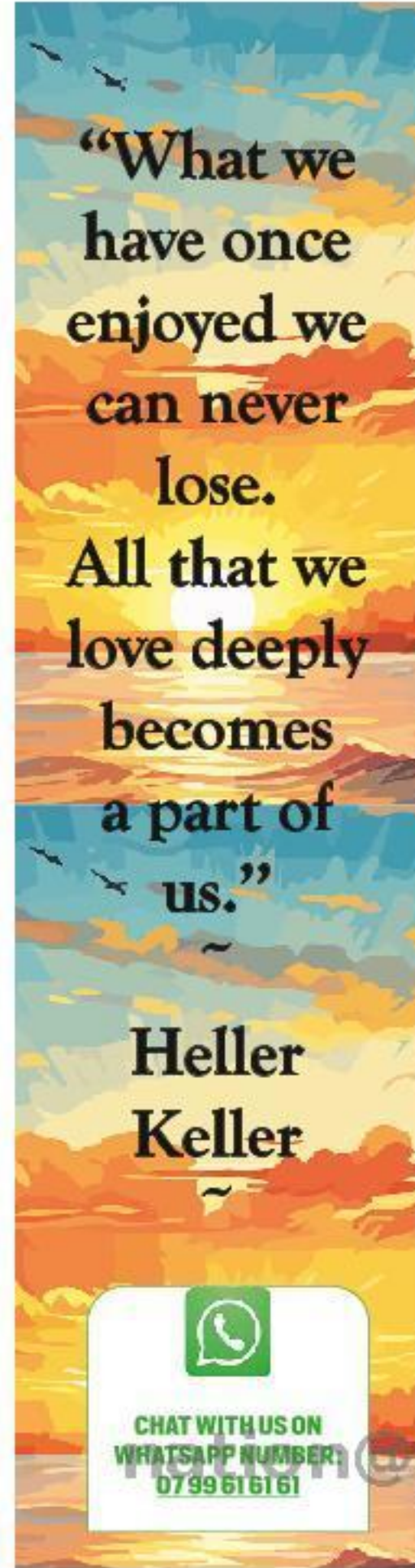
Family and friends are meeting at their home in Kiamumbi, off Kamiti Road from Monday 8th December, 2025 to Friday 12th December, 2025 and at Blue Springs Hotel along Thika road at 5.30 p.m from Monday, 8th December, 2025 to Thursday 11th December, 2025.

The burial will take place on Saturday 13th December, 2025 at Kiaworuo, Gatundu South.

The cortege will leave K.U Teaching, Referral and Research Hospital Funeral Home at 8.00 a.m on Saturday 13th December, 2025.

A fundraiser to offset the hospital bill will be held on Thursday 11th December, 2025, at Blue Springs Hotel from 5.30 p.m.

The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away, may the name of the Lord be praised. ~ Job 1:22



Death and Funeral Announcement



STEVE KIOKO NZEVE

24th October 1964 ~ 2nd December 2025

It is with humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the passing of **Steve Kioko Nzeve**, Director St. Steven's Schools which occurred on 2nd December 2025 at Nairobi Hospital.

Loving husband of Jossy Mwikali Kioko, Director St. Steven's Schools, Dear father of Linda Nzilani Kioko (USIU-Africa) and Ian Muthama Kioko.

Son of the late Samson Nzeve Kiluu and the late Joyce Nzilani Nzeve. Brother of the late Nicholas Mutinda, the late Josephine Nduku, the late Betty Mwelu, Patrick Kavatha and Faith Nyamai.

Son-in-law of the late Jones Muthama Muthembwa and the late Ruth Kavivi Muthama. Brother-in-law of the late Jonathan Matheka, the late Fredrick Muuo, Agnes Mukulu, Christine Mbatha, Jennifer Ndumi, Richard Mwangela, Janet Nthenya, the late Leonard Muthoka, the late Ann Mbula, the late Ann Mbithe, the late Francis Nyamai, Mary Kavatha, Aaron Njoroge, Julius Musyoki, Ann Matheka, Eunice Mwangela, Judy Mwangela and Loki Kithinzi. Cousin of Kilonzo, Isaack, among others. Uncle of Alex, Maundu, Mumbua, Syombua, Edward, Mutisya, Gladys, Julie, Muendo, Mutinda, Tony, Sharon, among others.

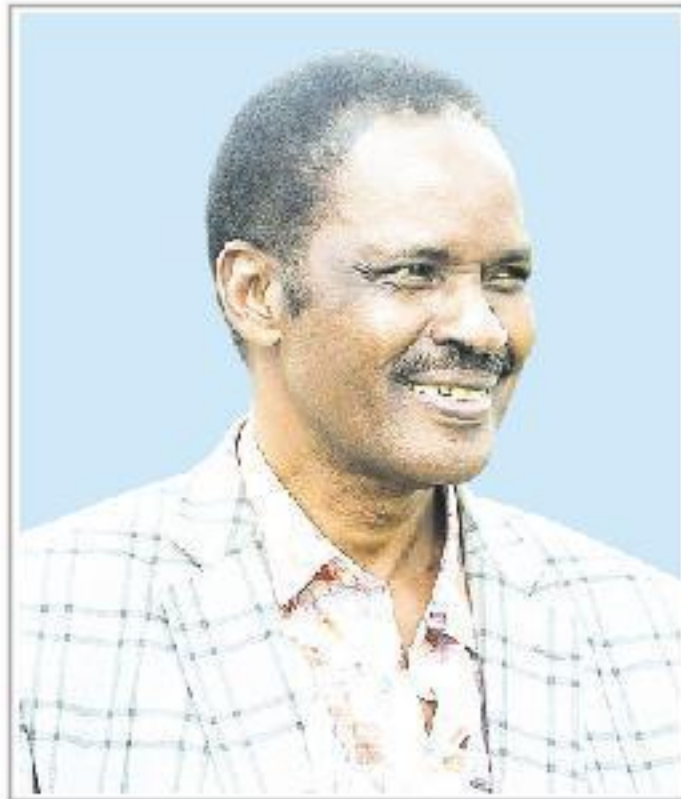
Friends and family are meeting daily at AIC Plainsview, South B, from 5:30 p.m. for the burial preparations.

The cortege leaves Lee Funeral Home, on Thursday 11th December, 2025 at 8:00am and thereafter burial at his home in Kyumbi-Makutano Junction, Machakos County.

"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful servants" Psalms 116:15

Dad, you fought a good fight, you have finished the race and you have kept the faith. In God's hands you rest, in our hearts you remain forever 2nd Timothy 4:7 AMEN.

Promotion to Glory



Julius Kamande Manyeki

It is with great sorrow, shock, and heavy hearts that we announce the promotion to glory of Mr. Julius Kamande Manyeki, CEO of Nova Communications and formerly Brand and Communications Manager at Shell and BP, who passed away on Friday, 5th December 2025.

He was the husband of Alice Nduta Manyeki. He was the dad of Lenny & Rahab Manyeki, David Ngatho and Dr. Kevin & Daisy Ndungu. He was the son of the late James Manyeki Kamotho and the late Susan Njoki. He was the brother of Rachel Wanjiru Ngigi, John Ndungu, Charles Njogu (Kamotho) and Margaret Wanjiku.

Family and friends are meeting at his home in Thome Estate (Mugumo-ini Drive, 82 Central Close) on Monday 8th, Tuesday 9th, and Wednesday 10th December 2025.

The final journey to lay Julius Manyeki to rest will kick off from Montezuma & Monalisa Funeral Home (Kabati) at 7:30 am on Friday, 12th December 2025. The funeral service will be held at Murang'a South Diocese, ACK St. Peter's Cathedral, located in Kenol, Murang'a County. The interment will thereafter take place in Kiriti Village, Maragua Sub-County, Muranga County.

We thank God for the time He blessed us with Julius Manyeki, and we are strengthened in knowing that nothing can separate us from His love, which is in Christ Jesus.

"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord"

~ Romans 8: 38-39 ~

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMISSION

Death and Funeral Announcement



Dr. Philip Brightone Buchere, PhD

28th June, 1973 ~ 24th November, 2025

It is with profound sorrow and humble acceptance of God's will that the Parliamentary Service Commission announces the demise of Dr. Philip Brightone Buchere, PhD, who passed away on Monday 24th November, 2025, at Würzburg University Hospital in Germany while receiving treatment.

Dr. Buchere lived a life characterized by distinguished service and unwavering devotion to his family. As a diligent, resourceful and industrious public servant, his professional conduct exemplified honesty, self-discipline, integrity and a remarkable work ethic, leaving an indelible mark on Parliament and in the public service as a whole.

Beyond his impactful career, Dr. Buchere was the loving husband of Edith Jephchirchir Siror, a devoted father of Brian Ikhab, Fiona Awiti Shapwala, Paul Okuyo, Eugene Mukuya Buchere and Nigel Mathias Nyongesa (adopted). He was the loving second born child of Mr. Kenneth Buchere and Mrs. Mary Buchere and a cherished brother of the late Carolyne Buchere, Brian Buchere, Jackie Buchere, Billy Buchere, Dave Buchere, Swinnie Koepke, the late Charles Buchere and Mercy Buchere. The other siblings are Beverlyne Buchere, Zawadi Buchere and Gilbert Buchere. Dr. Buchere was a father-in-law of Caroline Lichoro and a caring grandfather of Yvonne Ntanyari and Leightone Buchere. He was the son-in-law of Job Siror and Lilian Siror. He was a dear brother-in-law of Benard Siror, Sarah Siele, Nelly Siror, Catherine Keitany, Pauline Siror, Stella Amanya and Jens Koepke. He was the uncle of Yvonne, Leon, Sharon, Millan, Ansel, Fortune and Favor. He was a dear friend and cousin of David Indiya, Mary Ambole, among others.

The cortege will depart from Montezuma Funeral Home on Wednesday, 10th December, 2025, for a requiem mass at Buruburu Church of God Community Centre at 12:00 pm. The body will then be airlifted to Kisumu International Airport on Thursday, 11th December 2025, for a night vigil at his ancestral home in Emulunya Village, Khwisero. The funeral service and burial will take place on Saturday, 13th December 2025, at his Kipsingori Farm, Moi's Bridge, Kitale, commencing at 9:00 am.

Dr. Buchere's integrity, dedication, humility and leadership will be deeply missed. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7

Sport



Football
The subtle tricks that AFC Leopards capitalised on to beat Gor Mahia in FKF Premier League

← P.32

Golf Youngsters Kabugi and Wafula earn tickets to prestigious pro golf tour **P.32**



Robert Okaka (left) has reached the quarter-finals of his heavy-weight fight in Dubai.

Kenyan boxer Okaka on the verge of big pay cheque in championship

BY AYUMBA AYODI

Kenyan boxer, Robert Okaka, is on the verge of getting his biggest pay cheque as an amateur.

The light heavyweight is assured of at least Sh1.3 million (US\$ 10,000), having reached the quarter-finals of the International Boxing Association (IBA) Men's World Championship in Dubai yesterday.

The two-time Africa Championships silver medallist is also a step away from giving Kenya her first world championship medal in 47 years.

Okaka subjected Tunisia's Youssef Rafti to a flurry of blows and three standing counts in the third round of their fight before the referee stopped the fight.

Okaka, who is fondly known as "One Man Ngori", learnt his boxing skills at Jericho Boxing Club in Nairobi.

He will now face Russian Bizhamov Dzhambulat in the quarter-finals of the category tomorrow from 8pm (Kenyan time). Kenya is yet to win a medal at the world event since Stephen Muchoki claimed gold in light flyweight category at the 1978 championship in Belgrade,

Serbia (formerly Yugoslavia). Muchoki also won silver medal at the 1974 Championship in Havana, Cuba.

Yesterday, Okaka used his jab effectively, then caught Rafti clean, the final blow landing on the Tunisian's chin to elicit the third standing count.

The Kenya Defence Forces boxer, who is making his second appearance at the world championship, beat Estonian Vinogradov Anton 5-0 in the round of 32 to set up a meeting with Rafti.

Boxers who lose their fights at the semi-final stage will each pocket Sh9.75million (US\$ 75,000) while silver medallists will get Sh19.5 million (US\$150,000). Gold medallists will go home Sh39 million (US\$ 300,000) richer.

Later yesterday, Washington Wandera was due to fight Prokudins Matvejs from Latvia for a place in the lightweight quarter-finals, and a share of Sh1.3million. Wandera had beaten Uganda's Mulindwa Fahad 5-0 in the round of 32.

Kenya's captain Boniface Mogunde lost in split decision to seventh-seeded Aliyev Sarkhan from Azerbaijan in light middleweight round of 32.

KPA play Mozambicans in Cup

BY PHILIP ONYANGO

Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) who have already qualified for the quarter-finals of Women's Basketball Africa League play defending champions Ferraviarro Maputo of Mozambique today in a tough match that will decide who tops Group 'B' heading to the quarter-finals in Cairo.

KPA stayed perfect in contention for the title with a 82-53 win over Nigeria's First Bank on Sunday night in Cairo.

KPA started the match strongly, taking a 19-13 lead in the first quarter of the electrifying game played at Al Ahly Arena in Cairo.

Aminata Samassekou and Alexus Johnson troubled First Bank, as the Nigerian side struggled to find rhythm, missing several shots under KPA's defensive pressure.

The second quarter proved decisive for KPA, the Kenyan side racing to a 45-24 half-time lead.

KPA rode on swift transitions, astute offense, and fluid ball movement to overcome First Bank, who registered fewer shots in the match.

Samassekou led KPA with 20 points.

The fourth quarter ended 73-43 in favour of KPA, who won the match 82-53. Johnson and Samassekou both finished with efficiency ratings of 22, combining points, rebounds, assists, and steals.

KPA shot 52.3 percent on two-pointers, 31.8 percent on threes, and 60 percent on free throws, while First Bank managed 18.4 percent on two-point shots and 18.6 percent from three.

Victory over Ferraviarro Maputo will put KPA top of the group.

Athletics Kenya's cross country team attends training sessions in Embu

Chance meeting that gave rise to athletics career

Young Kariankei was inspired to take up running from encounters with stars in Iten



BY BERNARD ROTICH

Born and raised in Olerai Village, Narok County, Kelvin Kariankei, a Form Four student at Chepsaita Secondary School in Uasin Gishu grew up knowing struggle more intimately than most children his age.

Poverty made education seem a distant dream, and the freshly-minted junior men's 8km race winner at Saturday's Great Chepsaita Cross Country admits he almost gave up entirely.

His life changed when a Good Samaritan stepped in and opened the door to an opportunity he never imagined would shape his destiny.

In 2018, a young Kariankei left home for Iten, Elgeyo Marakwet—hoping to sharpen his skills as a budding footballer. Instead, the high-altitude town famous for producing world-beating athletes turned him into a runner.

Back in Olerai, school fees had been hard to come by. "Poverty was real and education just looked like a dream," he recalls. In Iten, he joined Standard Four at Iten Primary School, and although he played football, running was just something he did for fun.

Every morning, he watched elite and amateur athletes training along the trails of Iten. The sight stirred something in him. He began taking part in school competitions, even though he wasn't performing well at first. But Iten has a way of moulding champions, and Kariankei slowly began to believe that he, too, could be one.

"It has been a long painful journey but at least for now I can smile after triumphing at the cross country last weekend," said the 19-year-old. "I used to play football but something came into my mind when I saw athletes training every morning while I was going to school. That changed everything and I started running though I wasn't that good but I have been improving gradually and today I can say it has paid off."

Last Saturday, Kariankei stormed to victory at the third edition of the Great Chepsaita Cross Country Run, winning the junior men's race in 25:20. He beat Emmanuel Kipchirchir, who clocked 25:27, and Alex Pelor Merioka, who came in third with 25:33.

He dedicates his victory to his mother, Meeyu Kariankei, who he says has been his greatest pillar—always praying for him, his teammates, and the community that supports his training in both school and Iten. His win marked more than just a medal—it earned him a ticket to the United States. Organisers, led by Patron Farouk Kibet, had promised the top junior athletes a trip abroad to experience international competition.

Kariankei has now travelled to Kigari Teachers Training College in Embu, where he is set to join the national team preparing for the World Cross Country Championships scheduled for January 10, 2026, in the US. His rise has been steady but far from easy. He began the year with a 17th-place finish at the Discovery Cross Country Championships in Eldoret. Days later, fatigue caught up with him, and he finished 28th at the Sirikwa Classic.

Kelvin Kariankei Kakenya celebrates after winning junior men's 8km race during the third edition of the Great Chepsaita Cross Country Run at Chepkemet in Uasin Gishu County. JARED NYATAYA | NATION

'Mashemeji' derby realised Sh7m in gate collection at Nyayo Stadium

BY VICTOR OTIENO

Gor Mahia pocketed Sh7 million from gate collection in the 98th "Mashemeji" derby held at the Nyayo National Stadium in Nairobi on Sunday. Forward Julius Masaba's 25th-minute rebound was all visiting AFC Leopards needed to humble their bitter-rivals

Gor 1-0, and claim the bragging rights in the well-attended match. While Nyayo National Stadium's seating capacity is 22,900, the organisers capped the ticket sales at 18,000 for safety reasons. Despite this, the stadium was full to capacity. Stairways and other areas designated for

movements were occupied. In a statement, Gor yesterday said it raised Sh7,011,500 from ticket sales. "We collected Sh7,011,500 from ticket sales during today's derby at Nyayo Stadium. We sincerely thank our fans for the outstanding turnout and unwavering support," Gor said on its social media pages,

quoting the club's treasurer Gerphas Okuku. The match's ticket retailed at Sh200 regular, Sh1000 VIP and Sh5,000 VVIP. The amount raised is a substantial increase from what Gor pocketed in the second leg of last season's "Mashemeji" derby held at Raila Odinga Stadium in Homa Bay County in June. The

match ended 1-1. Having been forced to host the clash outside Nairobi due to lack of a suitable venue in the capital, K'Ogalo managed to pocket just Sh2,152,700 million. This figure was far lower than the Sh7.3 million that Leopards earned from hosting last season's first-leg derby in April at Nyayo. It ended 0-0.

Football Liverpool play Inter Milan tonight in Uefa Champions League at the San Siro

Salah future in doubt as he slams Reds for using him as scapegoat



Liverpool manager Arne Slot and Mohamed Salah after their Uefa Champions League match against PSV Eindhoven at Anfield on November 26. PHOTO | REUTERS

Egyptian tears into the club over his treatment, signalling a potential exit from Anfield

LEEDS

Liverpool's Mohamed Salah said he had been "thrown under the bus" as he tore into the club over his treatment and signalled a potential exit after watching from the bench as they were held to a 3-3 Premier League draw with Leeds United on Saturday. The comments have overshadowed tonight's Uefa Champions League match between Liverpool and Italian giants Inter Milan at the San Siro. In his incendiary post-match comments, the 33-year-old Egyptian lashed out at the club and coach Arne Slot, telling journalists he felt he had been scapegoated for their poor start to the season and suggesting that he may not have long left at Anfield. "I'm very, very disappointed to be fair. I have done so much for this club, everybody can see that during the years and especially last season," Salah said in the post-match mixed zone before taking aim at the club's leadership. "I don't know, it seems like the club is throwing me under the bus. That's how I felt it, how I feel it. I think it's very clear that someone wants me to get all the blame. The club promised me in the

summer, a lot of promises and nothing so far." The Egyptian, who signed a two-year contract extension in April, has become an iconic figure in an eight-year spell at Liverpool in which he has won two Premier League titles and scored 250 goals in all competitions for the club. Yet after an indifferent start to the season, he has begun the last three matches on the bench, playing only 45 minutes. Liverpool visit Inter Milan in the Champions League on Tuesday before hosting Brighton & Hove Albion on Saturday, two games that may herald the end of Salah's time on Merseyside. "I called my mum and dad yesterday, I told them to come to Brighton game, it doesn't matter if I play or not. I'm going to enjoy it. We'll see

what's going to happen, but in my head, I'm going to enjoy that game, if I play it or not, if I'm on the bench or not," Salah, who is going to the Africa Cup of Nations with Egypt on December 15, said. "I don't know what's going to happen now, so I'm just going to be in Anfield, say goodbye to the fans (before) going to Africa Cup (of Nations), because I don't know what's going to happen when I'm there." Speaking after the draw, Slot said he had left Salah on the bench because he felt the team needed something different. "We were 2-0 up, we were 3-2 up. At that moment in time it was more about controlling the game and we didn't need a goal at that moment in time," he said.

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Age of Liverpool player Mohamed Sala. The Egyptian has said he had been "thrown under the bus" as he tore into the club over his treatment and signalled a potential exit at the club

UEFA CHAMPS LEAGUE

- Playing tonight:**
 Kairat v Olympiakos (6.30pm)
 Bayern v Sporting CP (8.45pm)
 Monaco v Galatasaray (11pm)
 Atalanta v Chelsea (11pm)
 Barcelona v E.Frankfurt (11pm)
 Inter Milan v Liverpool (11pm)
 PSV v Atlético Madrid (11pm)
 Union Saint-Gilloise v Marseille (11pm)
 Tottenham v Slavia Praha (11pm)

EUROPEAN STANDINGS

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Arsenal	15	10	3	2	28	9	33
2 Man City	15	10	1	4	35	16	31
3 Aston Villa	15	9	3	3	22	15	30
4 Crystal P	15	7	5	3	20	12	26
5 Chelsea	15	7	4	4	25	15	25
6 Everton	15	7	3	5	18	17	24
7 Brighton	15	6	5	4	25	21	23
8 Sunderland	15	6	5	4	18	17	23
9 Liverpool	15	7	2	6	24	24	23
10 Spurs	15	6	4	5	25	18	22
11 Newcastle	15	6	4	5	21	19	22
12 Man Utd	14	6	4	4	22	21	22
13 B.mouth	15	5	5	5	21	24	20
14 Brentford	15	6	1	8	21	24	19
15 Fulham	15	5	2	8	20	24	17
16 Leeds	15	4	3	8	19	29	15
17 N. Forest	15	4	3	8	14	25	15
18 West Ham	15	3	4	8	17	29	13
19 Burnley	15	3	1	11	16	30	10
20 Wolves	14	0	2	12	7	29	2

BUNDESLIGA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Bayern M	13	12	1	0	49	9	37
2 Leipzig	13	9	2	2	28	13	29
3 Dortmund	13	8	4	1	23	11	28
4 Leverkusen	13	7	2	4	28	19	23
5 Hoffenheim	13	7	2	4	25	19	23
6 Stuttgart	13	7	1	5	21	22	22
7 Frankfurt	13	6	3	4	28	29	21
8 Köln	13	4	4	5	22	21	16
9 Freiburg	13	4	4	5	20	22	16
10 M'gladb	13	4	4	5	17	19	16
11 Bremen	13	4	4	5	18	24	16
12 Un.Berlin	13	4	3	6	16	22	15
13 Hamburg	13	4	3	6	14	20	15
14 Augsburg	13	4	1	8	17	27	13
15 Wolfsburg	13	3	3	7	17	23	12
16 Heiden	13	3	2	8	12	28	11
17 St. Pauli	13	2	2	9	11	25	8
18 Mainz 05	13	1	3	9	11	24	6

LA LIGA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Barcelona	16	13	1	2	47	20	40
2 Real Mad	16	11	3	2	32	15	36
3 Villarreal	15	11	2	2	31	13	35
4 Atlético	16	9	4	3	28	15	31
5 Espanyol	15	8	3	4	19	16	27
6 Betis	15	6	6	3	25	19	24
7 Athletic	16	7	2	7	15	20	23
8 Getafe	15	6	2	7	13	17	20
9 Elche	15	4	7	4	18	17	19
10 Celta	15	4	7	4	18	19	19
11 Alavés	15	5	3	7	13	15	18
12 Rayo	15	4	5	6	13	16	17
13 Sevilla	15	5	2	8	20	24	17
14 Real Soc	15	4	4	7	19	22	16
15 Valencia	15	3	6	6	14	23	15
16 Mallorca	15	3	5	7	15	22	14
17 Osasuna							

SERIE "A"

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Napoli	14	10	1	3	22	12	31
2 Inter	14	10	0	4	32	13	30
3 Milan	13	8	4	1	19	9	28
4 Roma	14	9	0	5	15	8	27
5 Bologna	14	7	4	3	23	12	25
6 Como	14	6	6	2	19	11	24
7 Juventus	14	6	5	3	18	14	23
8 Sassuolo	14	6	2	6	19	17	20
9 Crema	14	5	5	4	18	17	20
10 Lazio	14	5	4	5	16	11	19
11 Udinese	13	5	3	5	14	20	18
12 Atalanta	14	3	7	4	17	17	16
13 Torino	13	3	5	5	12	23	14
14 Cagliari	14	3	5	6	14	19	14
15 Lecce	14	3	4	7	10	19	13
16 Genoa	13	2	5	6	13	20	11
17 Parma	13	2	5	6	9	17	11
18 Pisa	13	1	7	5	10	18	10
19 Verona	14	1	6	7	11	21	9
20 Fioren	14	0	6	8	11	24	6

LIGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Lens	15	11	1	3	26	13	34
2 Paris SG	15	10	3	2	32	12	33
3 Marseille	15	9	2	4	35	15	29
4 Lille	15	9	2	4	29	17	29
5 Lyon	15	7	3	5	21	16	24
6 Rennes	15	6	6	3	24	23	24
7 Monaco	15	7	2	6	26	26	23
8 Strasbourg	15	7	1	7	25	20	22
9 Toulouse	15	5	5	5	21	19	20
10 Brest	15	5	4	6	20	24	19
11 Angers	15	5	4	6	13	17	19
12 Nice	15	5	2	8	19	27	17
13 Lorient	15	4	5	6	19	28	17
14 Paris FC	15	4	4	7	21	26	16
15 Le Havre	15	3	6	6	13	21	15
16 Auxerre	15	3	3	9	11	21	12
17 Nantes	15	2	5	8	13	24	11
18 Metz	15	3	2	10	15	34	11

(Reuters)

Sala's future at Liverpool uncertain ahead of Uefa Champions League trip to Inter Milan tonight P.31



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Rugby

Kenyan youngsters Kibugu and Wafula earn tickets to prestigious pro golf tour

BY LARRY NGALA

Two young professional golfers from Kenya, Njoroge Kibugu and Naomi Wafula, have secured playing cards to the Sunshine Tour, one of the major pro golf tours in the world.

Kibugu, 22, will play in the men's Sunshine Tour from April next year, while Wafula, 27, will play in the Sunshine Ladies Tour.

South Africa-based Sunshine Tour is one of the major pro golf tours in the world. The others are the DP World (formerly European Professional Golf Tour (PGA), US PGA Tour, and the Asian Tour. The Sunshine Tour and DP World Tour co-sanction golf events globally.

Kibugu and Wafula have posted strong performances in the inaugural edition of Sunshine Development Tour (East Africa Swing) held in Kenya in the ended season. They will become the first golfers from Kenyan and East Africa to earn full tour cards to major professional golf tours.

Wafula earned her card to the Sunshine Ladies Tour following an outstanding season during which she made the cut in seven out of eight competitions in the Sunshine Development Tour. She is currently ranked 18th in the tournament's Order of Merit. She has laid claim to a place among East Africa's fastest rising professionals through her strong performances in the season.

Yesterday, Wafula said earning an opportunity to play in the Sunshine Ladies Tour is a fulfilment of her long-term dream.

"For me to be the first Kenyan woman golfer to get a global tour card through the Sunshine Development Tour is amazing. It has always been my dream to play in a major tour, and I was overwhelmed when I received the news. I am grateful to the Sunshine Development Tour because it has given us a chance to play high level competitions here at home, and that has opened doors for me to go international," she said.

She hopes her journey encourages more girls to pursue the sport.

"I hope other young women will see that it is possible to reach international platforms through this pathway. My goal now is to

play in all Sunshine Ladies Tour events next season, and do my best in each tournament," she said.

Njoroge secured his Sunshine Tour card directly by winning three Sunshine Development Tour events this season at Thika Greens Golf Resort, at Nyali Golf Club, and at Vet lab Sports Club.

His consistent run has placed him at the top of the Tour standings. For his stellar performance in the Tour, he has climbed 1,896 places on the Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) from 3,508 before the start of the Tour to 1,612 at the moment, making him the highest-ranked golfer from East Africa in the world.

Kenya Golf Union chairman, Chris Kinuthia said Kabugu and Wafula's rise will enhance Kenya's profile as a top destination for golf.

"The local golf fraternity, under the Kenya Golf Union, congratulates Njoroge Kibugu and Naomi Wafula on this milestone which will, undoubtedly, enhance Kenya's profile as a golfing nation. The achievements underscore the need for further investment in golf development in the country, both from amateur and professional standpoint," he said.

"It highlights the need for a sustained pathway such as the Sunshine Development Tour, and other golf tours which elevate local and regional golf to global standards. We look forward to following the progress of the two players in the Sunshine Tour."

Kenya Ladies Golf Union chairperson, Rosemary Mkok, said Wafula's appointment is a defining moment for the development of women's golf in Kenya.

"We congratulate Wafula on this remarkable accomplishment which immortalizes her in Kenya's golf history as the first female golfer to ever get a card to a global tour," she said.

There are two more tournaments in Sunshine Development Tour East Africa scheduled for January. The first will be staged at Thika Greens Golf Resort, and will be the ninth leg of the Tour, followed by the Grand Finale at the Karen Country Club, where the top 30 players from the Tour will compete against the top 30 players from South Africa's Big Easy Tour. The finalists will compete for promotion cards to the main Sunshine Tour for the 2026 season.

Football Leopards rise to 7th in FKF Premier League after Sunday's win

Subtle tricks Leopards employed to defeat Gor

Win was an accumulation of deliberate efforts by a team that sought to be the first to do everything



AFC Leopards fans march on the streets of Nairobi on Sunday, ahead of their Kenyan Premier League match with Gor Mahia, which was played at Nyayo National Stadium. DENNIS ONSONGO/NATION

BY MICHAEL KIRWA

AFC Leopards' 1-0 victory over Gor Mahia on Sunday at the Nyayo National Stadium was an accumulation of deliberate efforts by a team that had intended to be the first to do everything.

AFC Leopards arrived at the Nyayo National Stadium for the 98th Mashemeji derby league meeting at 12:54 pm. They showed up for the 3pm kick-off 50 minutes before hosts Gor Mahia revealed in the dramatic flair of a late entrance at 1:44pm.

There were fewer people at the gates when AFC Leopards arrived, allowing for a quick and smooth entry as the police and stewards had an easy time setting up a cordon along Douglas Wakihuri Road. Gor Mahia's arrival, however, caused pandemonium at the gates that delayed their entry. Security had a difficult time pushing back fans who wanted to escort the bus into the stadium.

AFC Leopards were also the first to step on the pitch for the warm-ups, leaving Gor Mahia to delight in the attention that welcomed their late entry.

"We planned to arrive early for this match because late arrivals have been our undoing in our previous matches. Arriving early allowed us to settle down and be accustomed to the environment. Players who never played in the derby before also had enough time to calm their nerves," AFC Leopards coach Fred Ambani said after the match.

Indeed the calm nerves among AFC Leopards showed when they stepped out for kick-off. Team captain Victor Omune led them out with his chin up, shoulders high, and chest puffed out. Mashemeji derby debutant James Kinyanjui was the last AFC Leopards player out of the tunnel but the stage did not faze him. He was smiling and pointing to the sky in prayer, perhaps saying, "This is the day the Lord has made."

AFC Leopards received more affirmation for their urgency when Omune came face-to-face with Gor Mahia captain Austin Odhiambo during the coin toss. Omune came out tops in the pre-match coin flip, giving him the upper hand to decide whether his team should kick off the match or pick the goal they will attack in the first half. Omune

went for the latter, hence allowing Gor Mahia to kick off the match and fall into the trap AFC Leopards had set for them. AFC Leopards pressed Gor Mahia aggressively from kick-off, setting the tone for the rest of the match.

"We had planned some strategies and tactics based on the outcome of the coin toss," Ambani later told *Nation Sport*. "Since, we had planned to start the match defending with a high-line, I had advised Omune to insist that we start the match by defending the goal nearest to our technical bench. That made it easy for me and assistants to communicate with our defence and monitor their on-and-off ball positions," Ambani added.

AFC Leopards' tenacious pressing in the first half allowed them to win the ball deep in Gor Mahia's half and Julius Masaba's 25th-minute goal resulted from such efforts. Gor surrendered possession with a series of weak clearances and interceptions made while under pressure, making for ping-pong play between the two teams as AFC Leopards advanced deeper into their opponents' territory. Eventually, a weak

clearance by Mike Kibwage while under pressure from Omune saw the ball rolling to Tyson Otieno. Otieno set up himself for a shot on goal which forced a save from Byrne Omondi. Omondi parried the ball back to play, creating a moment that saw Gor Mahia finally pay for their lack of aggression in winning second balls.

Masaba, who was stalking Paul Ochuoga throughout that play, reacted quickly to flick the rebound into the net for his first goal of the season, leaving Ochuoga sprawling on the ground in his botched attempt to clear the ball.

Ambani further explained the importance of AFC Leopards winning the coin toss and selecting to attack a goal that benefited their game plan.

"In the first half, we were attacking Gor while facing our fans. That gave us motivation. In the second half, we had them behind us, cheering us on to secure a win," Ambani said. He admitted that Gor also played the match in similar circumstances, but attributed AFC Leopards' success to them having made the most out of the two situations than their opponents.



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£2 Powering SME

Cleaner e-mobility for everyday riders

E-Safiri is tackling environmental pollution in transport industry by offering an alternative to gas-guzzling motorcycles through its solar powered and grid connected charging stations. **P. 2&3**

nation@daily.com



Powering SMEs

E-Safiri leads EV transformation with silent

The start-up's charging stations are expanding nationwide, combining renewable energy with grid power, to offer a sustainable solution for a cleaner future

BY MARGARET MAINA

In Kisumu, the sound of roaring motorcycles fills the streets, serving as the lifeblood of both urban and rural transportation in the lakeside city.

As their engines sputter and expel thick fumes into the humid air, the city struggles with an escalating pollution problem.

The haze is particularly thick in peri-urban areas, where narrow roads are congested with vehicles

and transport demand surges in tandem with the growing population.

In response to these challenges, Carol Ofafa founded E-Safiri, a startup that is reshaping transportation, by offering an alternative to gas-guzzling motorcycles.

Focused on electric vehicles (EVs), the company is creating an ecosystem designed to revolutionise mobility, with ambitions that extend well beyond Kisumu.

"Through pay-as-you-go and Mobility-as-a-Service models, we are driving EV adoption, expanding charging infrastructure, and empowering women and youth," she says, adding that they are tackling environmental pollution and creating jobs, while providing affordable and accessible transportation for all.

The company's charging stations are expanding nationwide, combining renewable energy with grid power, to offer a sustainable solution for a cleaner future.

E-bikes, once a distant dream, are now becoming a familiar sight on the streets. Silent, clean, and efficient, these bikes offer a

stark contrast to the noisy, smoke-filled engines of their traditional counterparts.

The goal goes beyond providing an alternative to petrol-powered motorcycles; it creates a cleaner, sustainable mobility system that could reshape transportation across Kenya and the wider region.

"I grew up between the rural heartlands of Homa Bay and the urban sprawl of Kisumu, I always knew the limitations of living in areas where basic infrastructure was scarce," she says.

A scholarship took her to Canada, where she first encountered the stark contrast in resources and the adoption of electric mobility in Europe.

Her time abroad, particularly in Glasgow, marked a turning point in her career.

"Realising that Europe was advancing with electric buses, e-bikes and other renewable transport technologies, I returned to Kenya determined to unlock electric mobility for Africa, where such infrastructure was almost non-existent," she says.

With a starting capital of



Riders along Kisumu - Kakamega highway. E-Safiri and other innovative transport initiatives are steadily rolling out cleaner, electric options. ALEX ODHIAMBO | NATION

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\$15,000, largely funded from personal savings, E-Safiri operations began in 2023 with a single battery-swapping station in Kisumu.

The start-up tackled one of the biggest obstacles to EV adoption, which is the lack of infrastructure, by providing a battery-swapping service for electric motorcycles and tri-cycles.

It operates across four locations in Kenya, including Dunga Beach, Mamboleo, Nyamasaria and Kisumu Town, with additional sites at Gita and Kiumba Beach set to launch in December 2025.

It also plans to expand operations nationwide. E-Safiri's innovation relies on solar-powered hubs, which reduce dependence on the national grid.

Carol says that with many areas lacking reliable electricity, especially in rural parts of Kisumu and surrounding regions, solar energy provides a reliable, sustainable power source for charging and swapping batteries.

Each of these hubs is IoT-enabled, equipped with smart systems that monitor battery status, track energy usage, and ensure continuous service even during times of low solar output, with Internet of Things (IoT) technology playing a crucial role in the company's operations.

Each battery and charging point is connected to an IoT plat-

form that allows real-time data to be collected and analysed.

"The central monitoring system provides proactive maintenance alerts, ensuring that potential issues are identified before they cause service interruptions," she explains.

This data is vital for operational efficiency, allowing the company to make data-driven decisions on everything from inventory management to the optimal placement of new hubs.

Beyond the charging infra-

The central monitoring system provides proactive maintenance alerts, ensuring that potential issues are identified before they cause service interruptions

Carol Ofafa-founder E-Safiri



structure, E-Safiri has innovated in providing solar-powered cold storage solutions for local communities, particularly for fishermen who face challenges in keeping their catch fresh.

The Baridi Box — a portable, insulated storage container — has become an essential tool for transporting perishables over long distances.

The boxes can be leased from designated hubs at a rate of Sh500 per day. Each unit is equipped with ice blocks produced by locally assembled ice makers at the hubs.

Like most startups, Carol acknowledges several hurdles in this emerging sector. Infrastructure remains a perennial issue, and building the necessary hubs while ensuring that battery-swapping stations are strategically placed is no small task.

"Securing land in high-traffic areas is difficult, especially in Kisumu's crowded, informal settlements where land ownership is not clearly defined," she notes.

Financing also remains a significant challenge. Despite the starting capital, the company has needed to secure additional funds through grants, private investors, and partnerships to sustain its rapid growth.

The initial investment has mostly been directed toward es-

Powering SMEs

wheels, cleaner air



Establishing physical infrastructure—buying solar panels, assembling charging stations, and developing the battery-swapping technology.

However, as she explains, the real cost lies in ensuring that the service is accessible to everyone, especially in rural and peri-urban

ban areas where consumers may not be able to pay upfront for electric vehicles.

“While solar power is a great equaliser in terms of energy access, the cost of setting up charging stations and maintaining them in rural areas is higher than we anticipated,” she admits.



E-Safiri Chief Executive Officer Carol Ofafa during an interview on August 4, 2025 at Nation Centre building in Nairobi. BILLY OGADA | NATION

“Add to that the cost of importing EVs and batteries, and it is clear that the biggest hurdle is securing sustainable financing to keep the infrastructure running.”

Another significant challenge is awareness and adoption.

Despite the growing enthusiasm for renewable energy in Kenya, electric mobility remains a niche market, especially among low-income consumers who are more accustomed to petrol-powered motorcycles.

The company has invested in extensive community outreach and education campaigns, particularly in rural areas, to demonstrate the benefits of electric vehicles, including lower operating costs, reduced emissions, and less dependency on fossil fuels.

Despite the challenges, it has made significant progress, employing 10 full-time staff and an additional 25 part-time workers who manage its charging hubs and provide operational/maintenance services for the electric fleet.

A significant proportion of these employees are women from local communities, which is a key aspect of its social impact.

By hiring locally, the company offers skills training and creates opportunities for women to assume leadership roles at the hubs.

Its pay-as-you-go model has proven especially effective for low-income families, allowing riders to pay per battery swap instead of bearing high upfront costs.

With each swap priced at Sh200 and charging services at Sh100, the startup is making electric mobility a cleaner, more viable option for everyday riders.

Carol says the company is looking to expand its footprint beyond Kisumu and the Western region of Kenya.

“We plan to launch additional hubs in Nairobi, Mombasa, and Nakuru, with an eye on tapping into East Africa’s broader electric vehicle market. The goal is to expand into neighbouring countries and create a pan-African network of swapping stations and charging hubs powered by solar energy,” she says.

The company is also exploring new opportunities to diversify its revenue streams, including private charging points for businesses and individuals who want to set up their own stations at home or in the office.

She notes that their true vision goes beyond business growth and focuses on making a lasting social impact.

E-Safiri works to reduce carbon emissions, create jobs, and increase access to clean energy for communities.

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Big business for Lamu youth in coconut waste

From coconut waste, the once jobless youth from Lamu are now generating income, creating jobs while at the same time, addressing environmental concerns

BY KALUME KAZUNGU

At the heart of Lamu Old Town, young entrepreneurs are minting cash from recycled coconut waste and produce.

Coconut husks and shells were once contributing to a filthy environment of the town.

Today, the youth and women, aged between 18 and 35 years, who were once struggling over unemployment, are all smiles.

They have found solace in coconut, successfully converting discarded waste into valuable products, thus generating income, creating jobs while at the same time, addressing environmental concerns.

Among the products they make from coconut produce and discarded coconut waste such as the shells and husks are high quality coconut crafts, brooms, makuti-roofing materials, ornaments, earrings, key holders, tableware, pots and other household decorations and jewelry.

The group's enterprise development officer, who doubles as its team leader and trainer, Athman Twalib, says young entrepreneurs of Lamu have learnt to undertake coconut value addition where they are using coconut for value-addition to make prod-

ucts virgin coconut oil, coconut oil soap, raw coconut and mada-fu aggregation and selling.

There are also those turning coconut shells and the husks into eco-friendly innovations by recycling them into valuable products like cocopeat, poultry feed, coconut briquettes, biochar and coir.

"As part of our innovation, we're converting discarded coconut husks into durable jute bags, eco-friendly paper bags, stylish coconut leather handbags, wallets, purses and other fashionable accessories as you can see here today," says Mr Twalib.

He says the youth are able to make at least Sh600 per day. The move has helped to rescue those who were once hooked on drugs but can now earn an income and lead meaningful lives.

Said Abubakar, one of the beneficiaries dealing with ornaments, jewelry and household decorations, notes that initially, heaps of wasted coconut shells and husks were a common sight across Lamu County, especially on the island.

The eyesore was an environmental hazard. Today, however, things are different as cleanliness has improved.

"We're happy that today, we've embraced recycling. We've managed to convert the coconut



Said Abubakar displays ornaments and other household decorations he has made from recycled coconut shells in Lamu.

KALUME KAZUNGU IN NATION

waste like shells and husks into a money-making industry," he says. A simple household decor or tableware made from coconut shells or husks is sold locally for between Sh700 and Sh1,000 while the same item sold to tourists goes at between Sh3,000 and Sh5,000.

In a good month, Mr Abubakar's group, for instance, generates not less than Sh40,000 from the sale of the ornaments made from coconut shells and husks.

Hamida Hussein says every

part of the coconut from the shell and husks to the water and fiber, all holds economic potential.

Ms Hussein deals with the sale of makuti (coconut tree leaves for thatching houses).

Apart from the makuti, Ms Hussein also collects the shells and husks and gives them to her colleagues who make charcoal briquettes, biochar, fibers, crafts, cocopeat and doormats.

"These are things we used to dump as trash before. Today,

they're a cash-generating resource," says Ms Hussein.

Ms Somoye Farouk, who makes coconut charcoal briquette and coconut oil soap, says the job has earned her financial freedom.

She acknowledges earning a steady income of not less than Sh30,000 a month through the sale of charcoal briquettes and soap.

Making charcoal briquettes involves multiple steps to ensure each briquette is of high quality, durable and environmentally friendly. Ms Farouk explains that they start by carbonising the coconut shells to create char. Thereafter, they sort the char to remove any foreign particles.

Once sorted, they crush the material into finer particles to achieve the texture they need for their briquettes.

The carbonised coconut shell powder is then, mixed with water and cassava flour, a locally sourced binder that gives the briquettes their cohesive strength. The mixture is then compressed into shapes-cylindrical, hexagonal or cubic using moulds.

Here, cassava flour is used because it is abundant and provides the right bonding ingredients for the briquettes. Once moulded, the briquettes are dried and packed ready for distribution.

"Our briquettes made from carbonised coconut shells burn longer and produce less smoke than traditional charcoal, so they're ideal for households, hotels, schools and other institutions," says Ms Farouk.

Maria Linda, who makes coconut virgin oil, says she earns at least Sh15,000 a month since she embraced the innovative venture. Before then, she was unemployed: "I encourage and motivate fellow youth to explore the

We're happy that today, we've embraced recycling. We've managed to convert the coconut waste like shells and husks into a money-making industry

Said Abubakar, a beneficiary of the coconut waste recycling initiative



coconut industry and its vast market opportunities."

The Lamu Old Town lot is part of the 1,200 youths from across Lamu County, who had early this year been taken through training on entrepreneurship skills by the BlueBiz Project implemented by Action Life in partnership with TechnoServe and supported by MasterCard Foundation.

Mathenge Ndung'u, programme and development manager at Action Life, notes that beyond income, the programme has also built confidence, strengthened resilience, and shifted mindsets from job-seeking to job-creation.

"The programme is a testament that when young people are trusted with skills and opportunity, they don't just earn—they innovate, lead and uplift the entire community. From one coconut, a whole economy is rising. It's proof that youth-led enterprise can drive economic growth, dignity, and peace in Lamu," says Mr Ndung'u.

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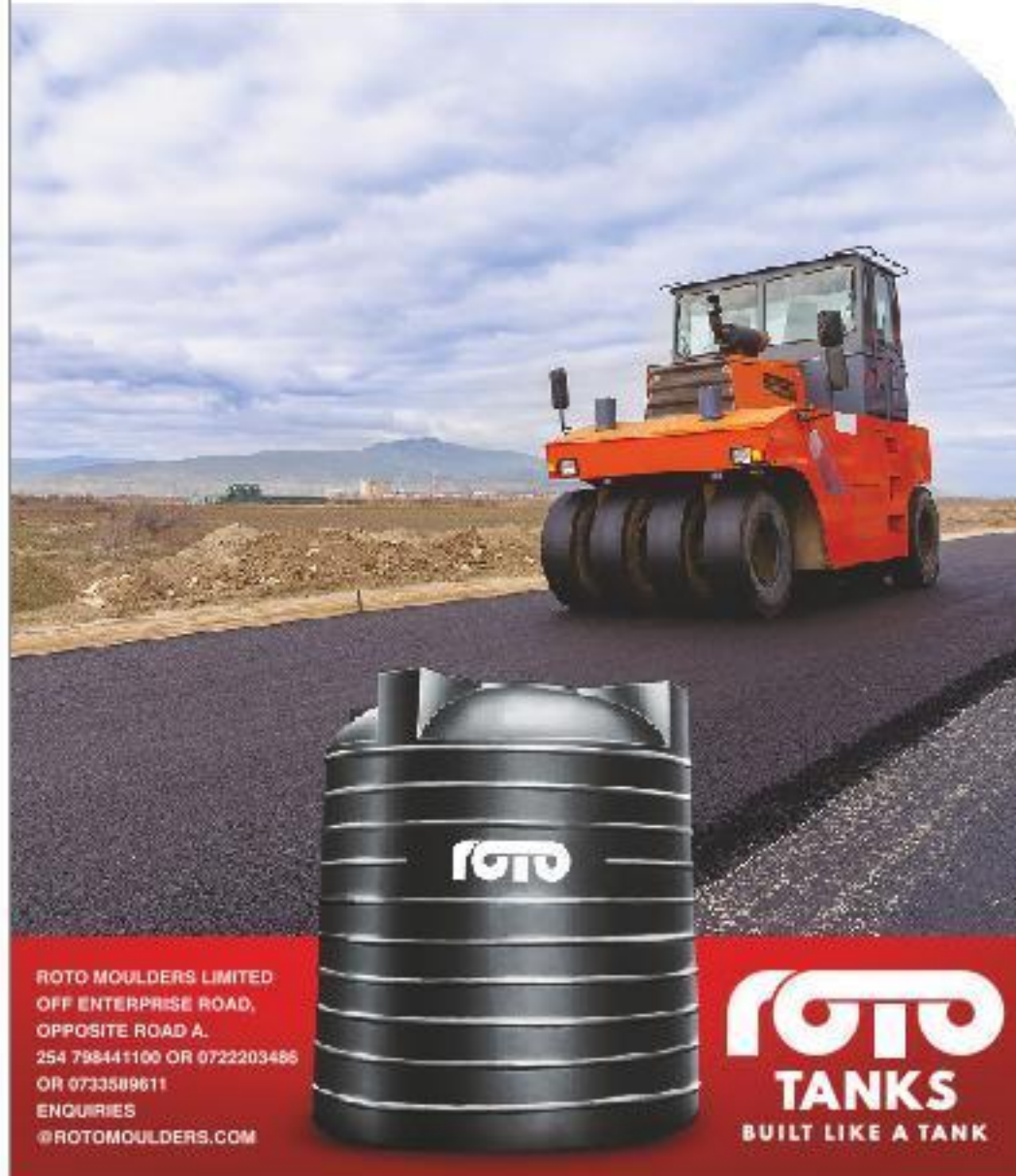
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UHC broken backbone

Despite billions invested in digitising Kenya's community health system, implementation gaps continue to hinder progress, with frozen phones, data submission failures, unreliable diagnostic tools, and delayed stipends compromising patient care and weakening disease surveillance. **P.4&5**



Technology-facilitated gender-based violence must be called out explicitly as a health problem in national guidelines, clinical protocols and essential service packages. If we do not name a problem, we do not train for it, staff for it, or fund it. The Ministry of Health, professional councils and insurers should recognise technology-facilitated gender-based violence as part of the continuum of violence against women and girls, and situate it with sexual and reproductive health, mental health, and adolescent health

Stellah Bosire,
a medical doctor and lawyer.



There is the threat of increased financial burden as individuals who rely on health insurance may face higher out-of-pocket costs, leading to increased financial hardships, especially for low-income families... A reduction in health insurance coverage may lead to a rise in the number of uninsured individuals, placing additional pressure on emergency services and public health systems

Anthony Kibagendi, Kitutu Chache South MP and member of the National Assembly Committee on Health

GLOBAL MEASLES STATISTICS (2025)



GLOBAL

Progress and current impact

88% reduction in measles deaths from **2000 to 2024**

59 million lives saved by the measles vaccine since **2000**

95,000 deaths in **2024**

11 million infections in **2024**

Vaccination Coverage



First dose: **84%** of children

Second dose: **76%** of children

Required threshold: **95%** with two doses

Over **30 million** children inadequately protected globally

Outbreaks

59 countries experienced large outbreaks in **2024**

Elimination status

96 countries eliminated measles by **2025**

AFRICA REGION (2024 VS 2019)

40% reduction in cases

50% reduction in deaths

First-dose coverage: **71%** (up from **50%** in **2000**)

Second-dose coverage: **55%** (up from **5%** in **2000**)

Burden

Over **140,000** cases, and **1,820** reported across **26** countries in **2024**

80% of global measles deaths occur in Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean

75% of under-protected children globally live in Africa and Eastern Mediterranean

Milestone

Cabo Verde, Mauritius, and Seychelles became first African countries to achieve measles elimination (2025)

KENYA

Current Outbreak (Jan 2024 - Feb 2025)

2,949 cases, **18** deaths, **18** affected counties

Geographic Hotspots

Garissa: **740** cases (**48.2%**)

of total)

Turkana: **1,444** cases and **12 deaths** (May 2025)

Vaccination status of cases

6% received two doses

14% received one dose

34% unvaccinated

46% unknown status

Age distribution

Children under **5**: **563** cases (hardest hit)

Age **15** and above: **386** cases

National coverage (2022)



First dose (**12-23 months**): **90%**

Second dose: Inconsistent across counties

July 2025 campaign response

5.18 million vaccinated against measles-rubella (**81% coverage**)

74,000 "zero-dose" children identified and vaccinated

SOURCES: World Health Organization, Kenya Ministry of Health COMPILED by Linet Owoko

AMR

Kenya joins global trial of antibiotics for vulnerable newborn children

BY HELLEN SHIKANDA

Kenyan scientists are developing new antibiotics for vulnerable babies aged between zero and 28 days to help treat neonatal sepsis, a life-threatening blood infection.

Kenya is one of eight countries globally participating in the NeoSep1 study, which is now entering its second phase. This phase will focus on examining the safety and efficacy of the new antibiotics and how they are likely to reduce deaths related to neonatal sepsis.

Dr Christina Obiero, principal investigator of the study and a clinician scientist at Kemri-Wellcome Trust, says that apart from developing new treatments for children, the goal is also to address antimicrobial resistance for that age group.

"There are high rates of resistance to the currently used antibiotics, including penicillin and gentamicin. We have antimicrobial resistance being a big problem, which affects the outcomes of these babies. Then what are we going to do in case the antibiotics we are using fail to work?" she asks.

Obiero says if a baby that young gets sepsis, they may either die or, if they survive, could have poor neurodevelopmental outcomes relating to the brain. "The ones who survive and go home may end up having complications as they grow older. This could range from impairment in their vision, hearing, or their cognitive function."

On Wednesday this week, the researchers received a green light to start screening and enrolling babies in the study after obtaining parental consent. The babies will then begin receiving the new antibiotics, and the research team will monitor them daily as they receive treatment whilst collecting data and checking for any adverse events. They will be followed up for 90 days.

"As we investigate them in the trial, we are also going to be comparing the antibiotic regimens that are currently used in our hospitals, both in the public and private sectors," she explains.

Obiero explains that the trial will use a combination of drugs—some have been in existence for years but have not been used for children that age, and in Africa.

The new combinations include fosfomycin and flomoxef given together or with amikacin.

The combinations currently used are penicillin and ampicillin and related antibiotics, cephalosporins, piperacillin, tazobactam or amikacin, and meropenem. She says this study is important because the current guidelines have not been updated with new evidence for over a decade due to limited research on antibiotics in babies.

Since antimicrobial resistance is key to this study, all babies enrolled will have a blood culture done, and then the culture results will guide the scientists on decisions around which antibiotics they need to continue with whilst on the ward.

Prof Samuel Kariuki, Continental Lead and Eastern Africa Director for the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative, explains that sepsis is a broad term that refers to infections that mainly affect the bloodstream of neonates, but can also affect other tissues and internal organs when it spreads from the bloodstream.

Noncommunicable Doctors sound alarm over rising lifestyle diseases in Mt Kenya region

BY MERCY MWENDE

Health experts in the Mt Kenya region have raised the alarm over a sharp rise in non-communicable diseases (NCDs), warning that lifestyle choices, late diagnoses and weak preventive systems are driving more residents into long-term illness.

Speaking during a town hall meeting at PCEA Tumutumu Hospital in Nyeri on November 28, doctors said the region is reporting unusually high cases of diabetes, hypertension and several cancers, with alcohol and cigarette use emerging as major triggers.

Dr Nelson Muriu, the Nyeri County Director of Medical Services and Public Health, said they had successfully managed to fight communicable diseases, but the diseases have become a burden as half of the deaths witnessed in the county are linked to them.

"Nationally, diabetes prevalence is about eight per cent, but in Nyeri, some sub-counties record up to 75 per cent. The data we are collecting from the community, shows that some sub-counties have prevalence as high as 75 per cent. This is a serious burden that we cannot ignore," he said.

Census data showed us that women in Nyeri live about 10 years longer than men because men are inactive

Dr Nelson Muriu



Dr Muriu added that men in Nyeri delay seeking treatment more than women, contributing to higher mortality. "Census data showed us that women in Nyeri live about 10 years longer than men because men are inactive. After work, they sit and watch TV, while their wives continue doing house chores. They only seek treatment when the disease is already in later stages," he said.

The Chief Medical Officer at PCEA Tumutumu Hospital said cardiovascular diseases hypertension, strokes and heart attacks account for nearly 80 per cent of the NCD cases they handle. Cancers are also rising, with breast cancer leading, followed by cervical, prostate, stomach and oesophageal cancers.

Most patients, doctors said, seek care too late. "Many cancer patients come in at stage three or four when it is extremely difficult to intervene," said Dr George Oguta, an oncologist. "The numbers are rising and many people cannot afford even basic screening."

The medical officers attributed the trend, especially among men, to tobacco use, excessive alcohol intake, poor diet, physical inactivity and a growing shift towards westernised eating habits. The county is currently designing programmes to improve men's health behaviour.



Nairobi Funeral Home on Ngong' Road on November 7. FRANCIS NDERITU | NATION

Embalming

Why our mortuary attendants deserve a standing ovation

From preparing the dead to polishing bones for anatomy lessons, their dedication keeps funeral home ecosystems alive for decades

BY DR NELLY BOSIRE

It has been two weeks since the KCSE exam ended, and we await the results with bated breath, as my niece Lynn is one of the candidates. Last Sunday as she chatted with her uncle, I learnt that she would like to be a pathologist. Whoa, what happened to neurosurgery and the cardiology?

Well, that got me thinking about our early years in medical school when my best friend, Dr Awinja, also said she would be a pathologist. Now I figure she just had a crush on our forensic pathologist, Prof Kozlova; because she is currently treating children; an awesome paediatrician at that.

To say I respected the odd Ukrainian couple that taught us pathology would be an understatement. Prof Kozlov, a general pathologist; and his beautifully wild wife, Prof Kozlova, a forensic pathologist, were adored. Their lessons were the ones we turned up before time, and stayed alert the whole time.

What was most interesting was how the couple engaged. They shared an office at the mortuary, where they conducted all the postmortems and liaised with the police for forensic matters. They also taught forensic medicine in the postmortem room next door to all fourth-year students. The couple had a hilarious balance where the lady did all the talking and questioning while the gentleman gently

agreed with everything and deflected all arguments. This balance worked well.

Prof Kozlov was in awe of his wife, 40 years on in the marriage. He always told us how she was the brightest student in his undergraduate class and he was immediately smitten. His biggest challenge was to convince her to even look at him! Well, they were together for all their post-medical school lives, so I guess he did win.

Prof Kozlova truly lived up to her husband's description. She was an extremely brilliant forensic pathologist who helped solve a multitude of police cases in the entire western region, back then when the total number of forensic pathologists in Kenya could count on one hand. She was an amazing teacher; with her beautiful Ukrainian accent and a deep commitment to imparting knowledge.

Unsung anchor

But behind the power couple, was an unassuming gentleman with no recognisable credentials, but was the unsung anchor of the entire mortuary ecosystem. His name was Harun, pronounced 'Kharoun' by Prof Kozlova. Without Harun, I believe the good old Professors would find themselves in a pickle.

Prof Kozlova treated Harun with the kind of respect accorded to a dependable and reliable colleague. Prof Kozlova was, as expected, over the top. She treated Harun like a responsible first-born child who

always takes care of everything until the mother forgets that he is not a third parent.

Prof Kozlova and Harun made a great tag team during postmortems. She never needed to ask for anything. Harun anticipated every one of her requirements and provided without the need for a verbal exchange. The only voice heard would be the good Professor dictating her findings into the recorder.

She would cut open the body, with Harun handing over specimen collection bottles and swabs; turning on the handheld shower head and washing away debris. She would examine the visceral organs as Harun held a basin to receive them before washing them off at the sink on the side of the room. She would incise the scalp and draw it back over the face to expose the skull for Harun to saw it open with the necropsy saw to expose the brain.

The pair worked together in unison like a pair of synchronised swimmers, never missing a beat. They were both obsessively clean, and their work space was a testament to that. Once the postmortem was done, Prof Kozlova would step out of the room to do her notes as Harun closed up the deceased, transferred them back to the cold storage then came back to clean up the workspace. Whenever Prof Kozlov was away back in Ukraine for his annual leave, Harun's life took a miserable turn. Prof Kozlova unwittingly redirected her

non-stop chatter to him, expecting him to not only listen but also politely nod and agree with her about all of it! As far as he was concerned; and much to our amusement, he would mutter how this was all above his pay grade, while trying to get away.

All of us came through the morgue but few truly appreciated Harun for what he was. He was the chief mortician; charged with the receiving, documenting, and safely storing the bodies as they were brought in, whether from the wards, from home, or from the streets, farms or the wild by the police.

Harun assisted in the postmortems, embalmed the dead, oversaw the cleaning and dressing of the bodies before collection by relatives, prepared our learning cadavers, and boiled and polished bones out in the little boiler room hidden at the far end of the morgue, for our anatomy museum. He also oversaw the administrative end of the morgue, ensuring the cold rooms were appropriately serviced as nothing was allowed to fall apart under his watch. He even supervised the maintenance of the beautiful flower gardens and grassy patch outside the morgue.

He spent most of the time coordinating the police with the Professors to schedule the postmortems, address the concerns of the relatives, and liaise with the local council for disposal of the unclaimed bodies. All these responsibilities and no formal title to his name. I always stopped short of asking him whether he was paid separately for each role he played. I figure maybe only Prof Kozlov rewarded him or keeping his wife grounded while he was away on leave.

Recognition

It has been over two decades since I last saw Harun. I hope he retired well and is spending his days peacefully watching the sunset and listening to the chatter of his grandchildren. It has taken almost as long, to see Harun and his colleagues finally get official recognition as an independent cadre in health, and for their profession to be formalised in a diploma course.

A quick browse through the Kenya Medical Training College Website reveals the Diploma in Mortuary Sciences page; with a clear description of the course duration of three years, and a detailed curriculum covering anatomy and physiology, pathology, microbiology and infection control, forensic medicine, embalming and restorative art, funeral home management, ethics and communication, grief counselling and stress management.

As the institution looks forward to graduating its first class, how I wish they would have Harun as a chief guest at the podium. It is people like him, self-taught on the job, alongside picking gems of knowledge and amazing skills from people like the professors; that have given respectability to the profession; leading up to a formal process of learning and even further into recognition as a regulated health profession in the future.

It is not possible to give respect to the departed when those charged with their care in the transition are not respected. I have held onto a profound statement from Harun many years ago as he carried a young man to the refrigerator, shovelled off the floor, after jumping off the rooftop of a 12-storey building in a drug induced moment of folly. "Even if he chooses the most disrespectful way to exit, our job is to respect his remains, even when we carry them in a bucket!"

The writer is a gynaecologist/obstetrician

Sh5.2bn system, dead pho

The government's flagship digital health system was meant to modernise community healthcare through real-time data reporting and improved service delivery. Instead, device failures, connectivity gaps, financial strain and a slow support structure undermine its rollout as counties and partners step in with only partial fixes

BY MERCY CHELANGAT

The call came from the police. Rose Ogutu, a Community Health Promoter (CHP) in Nairobi's Mukuru Kwa Njenga, had referred a sick man to Mama Lucy Kibaki Hospital just days earlier.

She had visited him at his house, assessed his condition, and sent him for treatment. Despite her referral, he was not immediately attended to. He was made to queue like any other patient, the referral carrying no weight. Eventually, he was given drugs and sent home.

Two days later, he was dead. "When I received the call informing me of his death, it was by the police, who then asked me to go and write a statement describing the happenings of the recent past, who he was, the health challenges he had, and the medication he was on," Rose recalls. "It was tough."

The tragedy did not end with his death. The man's sister, the only family member traced, refused to claim the body.

"She said there is no place to bury him, and that we should leave him wherever he is," Rose says. For Rose, the case encapsulates everything broken about the chain of care—from her frozen phone and delayed data submission to the hospital queue that sent him home with drugs, to a body no one would collect.

Somewhere in that chain, a life slipped through. This is the human wreckage left behind when Kenya's ambitious digital health system collides with the realities of the front line. The electronic Community Health Information System (eCHIS) was designed to transform community healthcare in Kenya.

Developed by the Ministry of Health (MoH) with support from partners including Living Goods and Medic, the platform was meant to digitise everything: household enrolment, client referrals, disease surveillance, supply chain management. It would replace error-prone paper records with real-time data. It would drive Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

In September 2023, President William Ruto officially launched the national scaling of eCHIS and committed to paying salaries to all community health workers in Kenya. The government procured approximately 110,000 smartphones.

Nearly 25,000 frontline health workers were trained. The system was linked to the Smart Primary Care Network. The implementation budget, according to Dr Patrick Amoth, Director General for Health at the MoH, stood at Sh5.2 billion.

On paper, it was revolutionary. On the ground, it is something else entirely. Rose's Neon phone, the device issued for eCHIS reporting, hangs often. "The connection is poor, and the phone just freezes," she explains.

"I cannot submit the results digitally. I end up having to physically travel to meet my supervisor just to share the data in person. This takes away time I could be spending with patients."

In Soweto, Beatrice Wangari faces the same frustrations. The data bundles required to run the eCHIS app and share critical alerts—a potential cholera outbreak, for instance—come from her own pocket. She buys data to share photos and proof of health matters in WhatsApp groups. There is no compensation. "We are not given money for data. I use my own money to buy," Beatrice says. "When you use it, there is no compensation. This adds a financial burden to our already modest stipend."

The struggle extends beyond connectivity. Essential diagnostic tools are failing.

Rose's weight machines no longer work. She shares equipment with a colleague in a different area. Her blood pressure machine is worse.

"One minute it shows the pressure is high, the next minute it's low," she says. Patients with diabetes cannot get their blood sugar tested—the test strips and reagents required for glucose monitoring are unavailable.

Beatrice's blood pressure machine requires batteries. When they run out, she must plug it into an electrical socket—a challenge in homes without electricity tokens or sockets. The bag provided to carry her equipment is too small for the heavy devices, forcing her to choose what to leave behind on each visit.

Both women agree that their stipends are woefully inadequate.

CHPs receive Sh3,500 from the Nairobi County government and Sh2,500 from the national government—a total of Sh6,000.

"Most of us have no jobs besides being CHPs, so we depend on the stipend to manage our lives and pay rent, food, and school fees," says Beatrice.

The payments arrive on unpredictable dates, often delayed by two months. As of November 7, Beatrice reported that October's money was yet to be paid.

The financial strain is compounded by uneven access to paid campaign work. During polio vaccination drives, CHPs can earn Sh1,000 per day. But selection depends on supervisors.

"Some people go on many activities, while others are never selected, leaving them to rely solely on the unreliable stipend," Beatrice says.

Rosemary Koori, a CHP representative overseeing colleagues in Lower Savannah, Embakasi East, describes a system held together by workarounds.

In theory, data collected from households—complete with identity card details—should flow in real time. In practice, CHPs often work offline, recording findings in notebooks when internet bundles are unavailable, then synchronising later. The mandatory deadline is the end of the month. Miss it, and the system resets.

"Let's say today I visit five households. If I have data, I'll upload it. The next day, if I do the same, it will be uploaded," Rosemary explains. "But in case the system hangs, you cannot do anything. You cannot enter the data, and you cannot sync it until the day the system will work."

She advises her CHPs to keep hard copies. When the system returns, they re-enter everything.

"Sometimes, the phones that we were given just go off without warning, and you cannot turn them back on regardless of what you do. Sometimes, they will take days, weeks even, before they can work again. I know of CHPs whose phones stopped working totally, and they now have to use their personal phones," she says.

What troubles Rosemary most is whether anyone is listening. Despite the immense effort poured into data collection, she believes the information is only half-utilised by the MoH. In her community, children are suffering from rampant dental fluorosis. The data captures this, she says, but no action has followed.

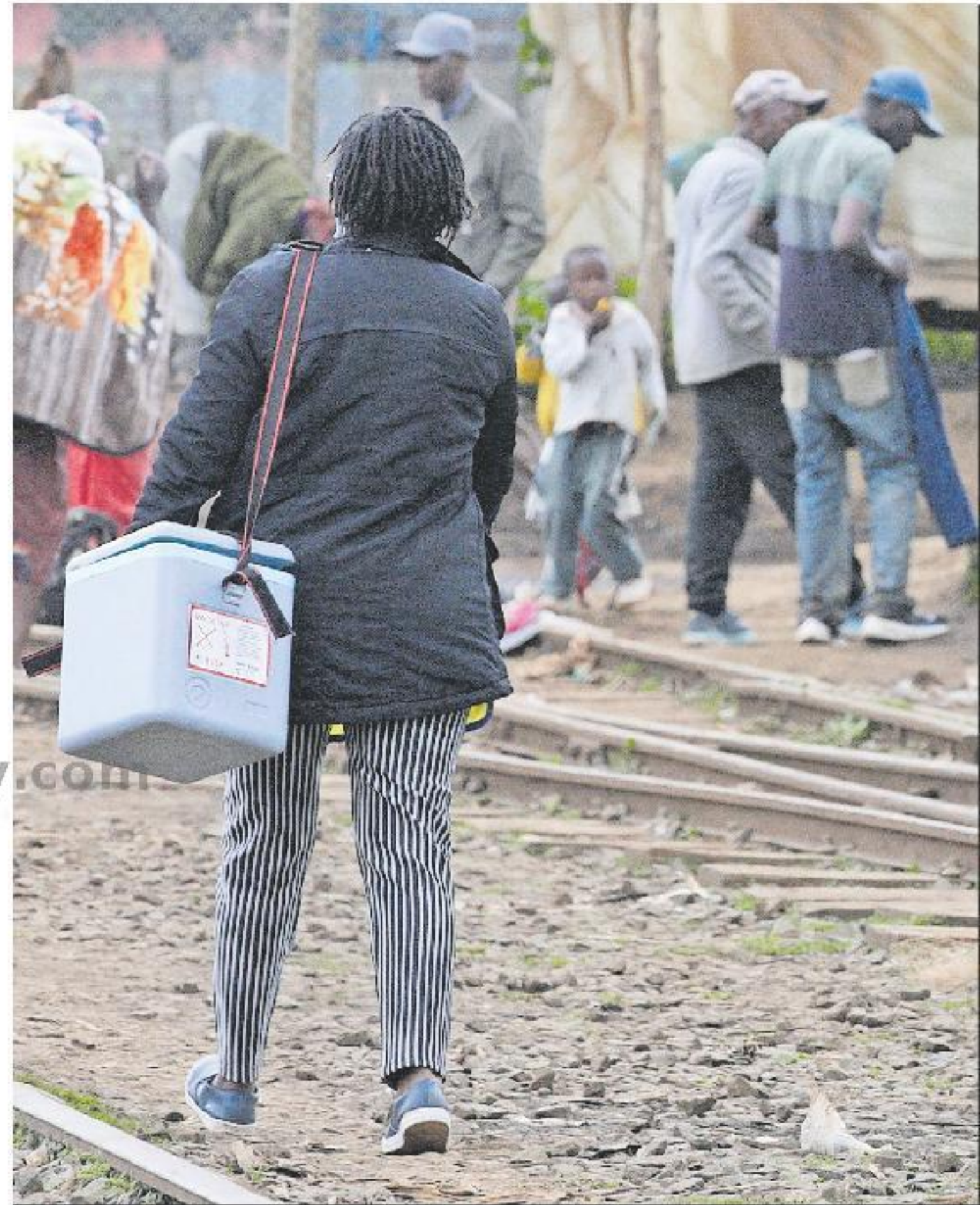
The single biggest improvement needed, she says, is reducing the financial burden on CHPs—enabling offline data submission without costly internet bundles. And better stipends, in recognition of their work reducing the national disease burden.

Victor*, a Community Health Assistant (CHA) overseeing 60 CHPs, lays bare the mathematics of the system's demands.

CHPs perform their household visits offline, but synchronising records requires internet. Two to three hours of synchronisation daily, five days a week, translates to 15 hours of connectivity needed weekly—all paid from their own stipends.

Then there are the crashes.

"There was a period where the



Community health promoters traverse the streets of Elburgon town in Nakuru County during the administration of vaccines on July 14. JOHN NJOROGE | NATION

eCHIS was unusable for nearly two months, and for others, even three," Victor says. "During this collapse, my team was forced to manually write down all household data, then attend reconciliation meetings to harmonise and reconcile these disparate written reports before generating a single, unified monthly report."

He was promised a future where CHPs could input data without bundles, with automatic transmission to the central server. That promise never materialised.

A partner organisation provided his team with a mobile Wi-Fi device. It helps during centralised activities like community registration. But CHPs work independently, moving door to door. They cannot share a single gadget. The device requires monthly recharging—a cost shouldered by the partner, not the government. Sometimes, funding lapses for a month or two.

"But we cannot complain when this happens because it's not government sponsored," Victor notes.

He exposes another flaw: the architecture of information flow. Data from CHPs does not go directly to their local health facility. It travels to a central server linked to the Kenya Health Information System (KH-

IS). If a CHP identifies an urgent outbreak—cholera, say—the information must travel a long, circuitous electronic route before the facility can access it.

"This means that crucial community information remains hidden from the people who need to act on it immediately," Victor says.

To combat data quality issues and the threat of lost work at month-end, he conducts monthly data review meetings. His team goes through reports to "sanitise" and "marry the data"—confirming whether five diarrhoeal cases were truly five, or perhaps only three.

Now, a new challenge looms. The health facility his team is linked to has gone paperless. Victor must figure out how to integrate the community's eCHIS data with the facility's new electronic system. Another layer of complexity for an already overburdened network.

The problems are not unique to Nairobi. In Nyamira County, Path Kenya documented similar struggles: low eCHIS utilisation due to digital literacy gaps, delays in resolving technical issues because problems had to be escalated to the centralised national support team, and low visibility of community health data

Phones: Failing digital health



among supervisors who lacked devices to monitor service provision.

The national government had equipped 1,379 CHPs in Nyamira with smartphones. But supervisors and managers received nothing, leaving them unable to monitor reporting activities or troubleshoot issues in real time

Dr Edward Kariithi, Director of Programs at Path Kenya, explains that his organisation's intervention was driven by a recognition that despite supporting clinic-based HIV/TB services since 2011, persistent issues like high rates of clients defaulting on appointments, poor treatment adherence, and patients becoming lost to care were undermining progress.

The solution, they realised, lay in strengthening the integrated community health system to locate unreached and missing clients.

The organisation, in partnership with the county government, procured 207 additional tablets and smartphones and trained 723 CHPs on eCHIS Version 3. They established help desks in each of Nyamira's five sub-counties—WhatsApp-based systems where CHPs can report issues and receive responses from local information technology officers and health managers.

"Resolution time has since been re-

How Kenya's digital health system was built: The eCHIS timeline

1	2	3	4
Laying groundwork	Designing the system	Testing and refining	National roll-out
July 2020 - January 2021	Phase 2: February 2021 - July 2021	August 2021 - April 2022	May 2022-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> >> Assessed the existing community health information landscape >> Developed a costed digitisation strategy for 2020-2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> >> Defined software requirements and specifications >> Built the initial eCHIS prototype >> Developed a training curriculum for health workers >> Created a framework to monitor the pilot phase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> >> Developed a framework for scaling up the system >> Validated the implementation approach >> Enhanced the eCHIS prototype based on pilot findings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> >> Phased scale-up of eCHIS across the country

duced to two working days on average, with a few issues being escalated to the national eCHIS support team," says Kariithi.

The intervention, funded by the Astellas Global Health Foundation at Sh194 million over three years, runs from January 2024 to Decem-

ber 2026. The Nyamira County Department of Health has committed to sustaining the help desks with county funding beginning in 2026.

John Wanyungu, Deputy Head of the Division of Community Health at the MoH, acknowledges the system hanging—but says the problems

were concentrated around February and March this year, when a technical hitch affected functionality.

"By then, we were hosting the data at Afya House. But since there were several issues, we relocated to Konza, which is now stable hosting. So, since we moved to Konza, we have not had

issues of system hanging," he says.

On the complaints about Neon phones, Wanyungu explains that CHPs are comparing the current devices—procured affordably from a local telco to supply large numbers—with older, high-performing phones previously supplied by other partners. The current phones have been in use for nearly three years, contributing to natural performance decline.

"The MoH acknowledges these complaints and has a plan to procure a new supply of phones for replacement," he says.

"The replacement initiative is not yet budgeted for but is planned for inclusion in the next national budget. This means the replacement is anticipated to take approximately one year to be fully funded and executed by the government."

On stipends, Wanyungu notes that some counties like Nairobi and Kisumu pay higher amounts, but the majority adhere to the Sh2,500 standard from each level of government. "We acknowledge the inadequacy of the current stipend, especially given the time and effort invested by CHPs. There is an ongoing commitment to keep reviewing the stipend rates, with potential increases dependent on the availability of resources in future budget cycles," he says.

On data bundles, he insists CHPs should not be paying from their own pockets. The system has been modified to operate via a whitelisting mechanism through Safaricom, allowing CHPs to use it without incurring data costs. But he concedes that CHPs in areas with poor network connectivity cannot fully enjoy these benefits.

On delays in data reaching local facilities, Wanyungu maintains the system is designed for direct and immediate transfer from CHPs to servers to the KHIS to dashboards. Any delays, he says, stem from internet connectivity issues at the point of synchronisation, not systemic flaws.

"A robust support structure is in place to help CHPs utilise the system effectively," he notes.

"We encourage them to utilise the available support mechanism by contacting focal persons and sub-contractors who have been trained to provide troubleshooting and technical support on the system, from the CHP level up to the national level."

Back in Mukuru Kwa Njenga, Rose still thinks about the man who died. The faulty equipment. The delayed digital submissions. The slow hospital response. Somewhere in that chain, a preventable health issue became a tragedy. And when it was over, not even his family wanted to claim him.

For the thousands of CHPs navigating broken phones, empty data bundles, and unreliable stipends—the vision of UHC remains distant. The system was built to save lives. They are still waiting for it to work.

*Some names have been changed to protect identity.

Worsening indicators

Child survival is backsliding: What Gates report means

The 2025 Goalkeepers Report warns that declining global health funding is reversing decades of progress

BY LINET OWOKO

Josephine Barasa had just finished her afternoon rounds when the email arrived. It was 2pm on a January day in 2025, and the message was brief: "We are sorry. We no longer need your services."

For four days, she did not speak. She did not leave her bed. She could not. "I froze. And then I went silent," Josephine recalls. "For someone whose life had been built on being able to speak, to guide, to help, I felt that I had lost my voice."

They called her a "mother mentor." That was her official job title. But to the young mothers and girls in her Kenyan community, she was something more—a health worker and gender-based violence champion who walked with women through pregnancy and early motherhood. Through the fear, the confusion, the questions no one else would answer.

She taught them how to keep their babies healthy: when to vaccinate, what to eat, how to breastfeed, how to stay clean, when to visit the health clinic. Many of these women were barely children themselves. Some had not chosen motherhood. Many had experienced violence. Josephine knew what it meant to carry wounds you did not ask for, because she had experienced violence too. When she looked at these girls, she saw more than pain—she saw herself.

What Josephine did not know was that her personal crisis mirrored a global catastrophe unfolding in real time, one that would reverse decades of progress in child survival. Her testimony now features in the Gates Foundation's 2025 Goalkeepers Report, where her experience serves as a stark reminder of the human cost behind the statistics.

Mortality

Over four million children from across the world might die before reaching their fifth birthday in 2025. The report projects that 4.8 million children will die this year, an increase of approximately 200,000 from 2024. This marks the first time child deaths have increased this century. "This is the clearest warning sign we've seen in decades that global child survival is backsliding," the

report states.

For two decades, the world made steady progress as under-five mortality fell year after year, reaching 36 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2024. But that improvement has stalled since 2021, and for the first time in a generation, the numbers are heading in the wrong direction.

The report, titled *We can't stop at almost*, attributes this reversal to declining development assistance for health. What is at stake is even more alarming. If current reductions in health funding persist, a 20 per cent cut could result in 12 million additional child deaths by 2045. A 30 per cent cut could push that number to 16 million. However, restored funding combined with innovation could save 13 million lives.

Malaria, historically one of Africa's biggest child killers, is projected to worsen, with cases rising from 32 to 33 per 1,000 people by 2030. Yet next-generation tools, including dual-insecticide bed nets, could save 5.7 million children by 2045. These new nets have already prevented over 13 million malaria cases across 17 African countries, demonstrating their enormous potential.

HIV incidence, currently 0.25 per 1,000, is also projected to climb slightly after years of decline, driven by programme slowdowns and funding disruptions. This is despite the arrival of breakthrough tools such as lenacapavir, a twice-yearly injection that could cut new infections by 20 per cent in high-incidence regions if it reached as little as four per cent of the population.

Tuberculosis remains far off track as well, with current rates at 111 cases per 100,000 people, and only marginal improvements expected by 2030. Maternal and newborn health indicators reflect similar stagnation. Maternal mortality stands at 188 deaths per 100,000 live births, nearly unchanged since 2016, and is pro-

I froze. And then I went silent. For someone whose life had been built on being able to speak, to guide, to help, I felt that I had lost my voice

Josephine Barasa



jected to fall only to 174 by 2030—far from the global target of 70. Achieving that goal would demand a 15 per cent annual reduction, a pace without historical precedent. Neonatal mortality, stuck at 16 deaths per 1,000 live births since 2018, is unlikely to reach the target of 12 by 2030.

Malaria burden

Sub-Saharan Africa continues to shoulder the heaviest burden of this crisis, accounting for 94 per cent of global malaria cases, more than 400,000 malaria deaths among under-fives, and nearly half of the world's stunted children. Yet despite these immense challenges, this is also the region where investment has yielded some of the world's most impressive health gains.

Nigeria's Gombe State rebuilt its primary health system by renovating 114 health centres, removing 500 ghost workers to save \$2.8 billion, and enrolling over 300,000 people into health insurance. Senegal has virtually eliminated measles outbreaks, cutting cases from 24,000 in 2000 to only a few hundred annually.

In Kenya, the progress has been equally remarkable. Child mortality dropped from 41.1 per 1,000 live births in 2022 to 39.9 in 2023, and infant mortality fell to 29.7 per 1,000 in 2024. Malaria cases decreased from 62 to 59 per 1,000 between 2022 and 2023. In 2022, the country recorded 3.42 million malaria cases but only 219 deaths—evidence that treatment systems were working. Nationally, over 50 per cent of Kenyans sleep under insecticide-treated nets, with coverage reaching 75 per cent among young children and pregnant women in high-risk regions.

Global ranking

But this progress hangs by a thread. Kenya remains among countries with high malaria burden, with about 70 per cent of the population at risk. In its latest global malaria report, the World Health Organisation shows that Kenya recorded 4,186,000 cases in 2024, up from 3,294,000 in 2023—an additional 892,000 cases that propelled Kenya from 23rd to 21st position globally, and from 21st to 20th within Africa.

The disease remains endemic in fourteen counties in the lake and coastal regions, including Kisumu, Siaya, Homa Bay, Migori, Busia, Vihiga, Bungoma, Kakamega, Lamu, Taita Taveta, Kilifi, Tana River, Mombasa, and Kwale. Busia County leads with the highest malaria burden, at about 39 per cent prevalence against a national average of six per cent.

Beyond malaria, Kenya ranks among the top 30 countries with high tuberculosis burden global-



ly. With a TB prevalence of 558 per 100,000, only 46 per cent of TB cases are diagnosed and treated, leaving 54 per cent undiagnosed and at risk of spreading the disease.

Nairobi County faces the highest TB burden, accounting for approximately 15 per cent of all reported TB cases nationally. The disease particularly affects reproductive-age adults between 15 and 44 years, with men more affected than women. In 2024, Nairobi neighbourhoods maintained persistently high TB prevalence, with many cases experiencing diagnostic delays due to healthcare access disparities and socioeconomic inequities.

Complexity

The HIV situation adds another layer of complexity. Data from the National Syndemic Disease Control Council (NSDCC) shows that Kenya's HIV prevalence stands at three per cent in 2024, with approximately 1.33 million people living with HIV.

In 2024, Kenya recorded nearly 20,000 new infections, with Nairobi leading at 3,045 new cases, followed by Migori (1,572), Kisumu (1,341), Homa Bay (1,180), and Busia (868).

Aids-related deaths increased by three per cent to 21,009 in 2024. Approximately half of all deaths were concentrated in just ten counties, with Nakuru (1,283) reporting the highest number, followed by Kisumu (1,116), Homa Bay (913), and Nairobi (690). The 2024 El Niño rains triggered spikes in malaria transmission, while mother-to-child HIV transmission rates increased to 9.3 per cent, missing the global target of less than five per cent.

Yet amid this crisis, there are bright spots demonstrating what is possible when innovation meets adequate funding. In 2024, Turkana County launched Kenya's first Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention (SMC) pilot project. Led by Duke Global Health Institute and Moi University, community health promoters went door-to-door offering preventive doses of antimalarial drugs to children under five between June and October, when malaria transmission peaks.

According to Dr Gilchrist Lokoel, chief officer for medical services, the intervention has been proven to prevent about 70 to 75 per cent of severe malaria cases among children under five. "The prevalence of malaria in the county is 39 per cent and SMC has proven to reduce the disease up to 75 per cent," said Lokoel.

In Busia, indoor residual spraying achieved over 95 per cent coverage in 2024, and malaria incidence dropped by 50 per cent, from 746 cases per 1,000 people in 2023 to 358 per 1,000 in 2024. The intervention protected nearly two million people.

Globally, next-generation tools offer even more promise. Dual-insecticide bed nets could save 5.7 million children by 2045. New RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus, also called human respiratory syncytial virus and human orthopneumovirus) and pneumonia immunisation tools, including maternal vaccines that protect babies before they are even born, hold the potential to save 3.4 million more children.

Kenya is preparing for the RSV maternal vaccine rollout, with the Ministry of Health, JHPIEGO, the Kenya Paediatric Association, and the Kenya Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society already developing vaccine preparedness assessment tools.

For tuberculosis, Kenya has rolled out TIBU, a digital TB surveillance system that promotes data use for decision-making at all levels. In Nairobi, innovative approaches including the Tibu and I Monitor platforms have achieved a 72 per cent cure rate, an 88 per cent treatment rate, and just five per cent loss to follow-up.

These gains underscore that when resources, technology, and committed frontline workers come together, progress is not only possible but measurable. "They couldn't take me away from my women."

Five days after receiving that devastating email, Josephine and her team were brought in for a debrief. Talking together amid the wreckage, she found the words slowly coming back. And she realised something.

"They could take away the money, but they couldn't take me away from my women."

Precipitate labour

BY DR RICHARD MOGENI

Most people fear a long, agonising labour. But what if labour became so fast it turned from miracle to emergency in minutes? I have seen this happen, and the consequences can be devastating. Precipitate labour is real—and it demands our attention.

Precipitate labour occurs when a baby is born within about three hours of the first regular contractions. At first glance, it may seem enviable: fast, efficient, almost effortless. But when the body moves faster than the system designed to protect it, the consequences can be serious.

Globally, studies suggest that one to three percent of births happen this quickly, with some hospital-based studies reporting rates as high as fourteen percent. In Kenya, no comprehensive studies have measured the prevalence of rapid labour, and many maternity wards still rely on old monitoring charts designed for slow, prolonged labours, not births that unfold in minutes.

Grace's story shows how frightening rapid labour can be. A mother of two, she knew her labours tended to be brisk. But her third pregnancy caught her off guard. Mild cramps in the mid-morning became intense pressure within an hour. By the time her husband found a car, she was already pushing. At the hospital gate, the baby was crowned. The midwife barely had gloves on before the newborn slipped into her hands. Mother and child survived—but Grace was shaken for weeks. "It felt as if my body had betrayed me," she said. What looked like a "lucky, fast birth" to outsiders left her emotionally bruised and fearful for the future.

Mary's story shows just how dangerous it can get. Her contractions went from mild to unbearable in minutes. By the time she reached the facility, she was fully dilated. The baby arrived quickly, but what followed was catastrophic. She began bleeding



When birth happens too fast: The hidden danger we are not talking about

heavily from a deep cervical tear, a known complication when tissues have no time to stretch gradually. Her blood pressure collapsed, and she became pale and confused. Surgeons repaired the tear and transfused blood, but she survived only just. Mary became a near-miss statistic, a reminder that speed without readiness can be deadly. While the health system must be equipped to respond, mothers and families can also play a crucial role. Preparing a small delivery bag with clean clothes, essential supplies,

and basic medications, arranging transport in advance, and knowing which facility to go to can make a critical difference when labour accelerates unexpectedly.

In precipitous labour, every minute counts. Women who plan ahead are more likely to reach skilled care in time, reducing the risk of severe bleeding, injury, or trauma to the newborn. Studies in Kenya and elsewhere show that women who take such steps are more likely to deliver in a health facility and respond effectively when complications arise,

though preparedness alone cannot replace professional care.

Some factors make rapid labour more likely. Women who have given birth before may progress faster because their tissues offer less resistance. Small babies may descend too quickly, while high blood pressure, certain placental conditions, or unusually strong contractions can also accelerate labour. But even mothers with no apparent risk factors can experience precipitous labour, which is why awareness and preparation are essential for everyone.

The problem is compounded by outdated monitoring methods. Many maternity wards still use labour charts developed decades ago to track slow or prolonged births. When labour races ahead, these charts become records of what already happened rather than tools to guide care. By the time abnormalities are noted, the baby may already be delivered, or the mother may already be bleeding heavily.

Global guidance offers a solution. The World Health Organization's Labour Care Guide, de-

signed to replace the old charts, stresses real-time assessment, continuous support, respectful care, and timely interventions. Earlier this year, the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics called on all countries to adopt it. Unlike older tools, it is suitable for today's patterns of labour, including rapid ones, and focuses on immediate decision-making rather than retrospective record-keeping.

Adopting this guide nationwide would transform maternity care. It would ensure midwives and clinicians can recognise rapid labour quickly, that staffing and monitoring are sufficient to respond immediately, and that emergency supplies, including medicines, surgical capacity, and blood, are always available. It would strengthen referral and transport systems for mothers whose labour accelerates at home, and safeguard their right to a companion—often the first person to notice danger.

Kenya cannot continue to lose women to preventable haemorrhage and complications. Precipitate labour adds urgency: when danger comes fast, preparedness is a matter of survival. Public education is essential so families recognise early warning signs and seek help immediately, and practical steps like preparedness can give mothers a fighting chance even before they reach a facility.

Precipitate labour is a silent threat hiding in plain sight. Grace and Mary's stories remind us that rapid labour is not simply "lucky" or benign. We can prevent the worst outcomes, but only if we modernise maternity care, strengthen our health system, and encourage practical birth preparedness. Mothers deserve a system that moves as fast as labour itself—responsive, skilled, and ready for the unexpected.

The author is Obstetrician gynaecologist, Fertility/Laparoscopy Specialist, Deputy Director - Reproductive Health & Head of Department Maternal-Fetal Medicine at MTRH.

Changing traditions to save lives: Marsabit's war on brucellosis

BY TEBBY OTIENO

Friday evening, Daudi Dokhole is sitting on a plastic chair outside his temporary home in Laisamis, Marsabit County. His dusty feet are evidence of the long distance he has covered today. Besides being a pastoralist, he also serves as a community disease reporter (CDR) and community health promoter (CHP), covering 79 and 81 households, respectively. His work?

"I collect information about animal and human health within the households. I report to veterinary officers who then visit the households to offer specific health services needed. For human beings, we refer to hospitals," Mr Dokhole tells Healthy Nation.

Wearing both CDR and CHP hats

came as a calling after he suffered a tremendous loss of part of his livestock from a health condition he had no idea about. "My camels have had abortions several times at different times. The occurrence continued until one day my four camels had abortions the same day. At that time, I used to have many camels that would be pregnant at once, but with their continued death, now, I only have 15," he says.

Mr Dokhole, like many pastoralists in Marsabit County, depends on animal products for food. He says that without being aware of the health risks that come from consuming raw animal products like milk and meat, for a long time, his family consumed them raw, a traditional behaviour that they inherited from their ancestors.

"When pregnant, a camel gives birth after 12 months. After that, I can milk it for another 12 months, getting at least six litres of milk per day. We also used to drink a lot of raw camel milk, and that was dangerous to our health because we would get infected with diseases," he shares with Healthy Nation.

He learned of humans getting infected by zoonotic diseases when his wife became so ill that traditional medicines could not heal her. He later took her to Laisamis Sub-County Hospital, where she was diagnosed with brucellosis.

"My wife has suffered from brucellosis. During those days, she used to feel pain in her joints; she could not walk. She also used to suffer from headaches. As a caregiver, taking care of my sick

wife was not easy. I sold a goat to cater for her treatment; she was treated as an outpatient for two weeks until she got cured," recalls Mr Dokhole.

Scientists define brucellosis as a life-threatening but neglected bacterial zoonotic disease caused by multiple species of bacteria in the genus *Brucella*. It occurs in humans and species of domestic and wild animals and affects people of all age groups, with about 2.4 billion people at risk.

Human brucellosis in Kenya is ranked the fourth zoonotic disease, with a higher burden among pastoralists. The bacteria enter the human body through the mucous membrane or skin abrasions when in direct contact with infected aborted foetuses, uterine contents and discharges.

Lkiyeyan Lekoyan is another pastoralist and resident of Laisamis in Marsabit County who has also suffered losses due to brucellosis. "I used to have camels in the past but stopped keeping them because of brucellosis. Most of my sheep and goats have had multiple abortions. Their skin used to shrink as if the animals had been rained on; some had tears flowing in their eyes, some had mucus running through their noses. Walking was also not easy; they would sleep under the tree most of the time when the other livestock were running," Mr Lekoyan recalls.

Mr Lekoyan, also a CDR in Laisamis, says abortion in animals is common in the region and for a long time, they took it as normal. It was until some residents underwent training in enhancing health surveillance and bio risk management in pastoral communities that they learned about brucellosis.

Food sovereignty

A Makueni smallholder is one of millions of farmers who have heaved a sigh of relief after a court halted government's efforts to criminalise the saving and sharing of indigenous seeds

BY PIUS MAUNDU

Until this weekend, Charity Ndivo spoke only in hushed tones about an enviable enterprise she has built over the years by exchanging assorted indigenous seeds collected from elderly neighbours who have long guarded them with pride.

The agroecology champion, who operates a makeshift indigenous seedbank in Itulu, Makueni County, is among millions of smallholder farmers who have heaved a sigh of relief after the High Court halted government efforts to criminalise the saving and sharing of indigenous seeds.

The High Court in Machakos has overturned several provisions of the Seed and Plant Varieties Act that outlawed the saving, sharing and selling of uncertified seeds, declaring key sections of the law unconstitutional. These provisions—introduced through amendments to the law—had imposed penalties of a Sh1 million fine or a jail term of up to two years. “Section 3D (1) of the Seed and Plant Varieties Act is hereby declared unconstitutional for violating Articles 31(a), 40(2) and 47 of the Constitution,” Justice Rhoda Rutto said on Friday.

“We no longer have to look over our shoulders when talking about indigenous seeds. The court ruling has set us free to use and openly promote the uptake of indigenous seeds. It is a boost to food security and food sovereignty,” Ms Ndivo told Healthy Nation in an interview.

Coping mechanism

She is part of a fast-growing community of small-scale farmers who have returned to indigenous crops as a way of coping with erratic rainfall linked to climate change. On her three-acre farm, she grows red and yellow maize, dolichos lablab, mung beans, cowpeas, pigeon peas and assorted bean varieties long thought to be extinct. She also grows sorghum and a black finger millet variety praised by nutritionists as a rich source of carbohydrates, dietary fibre and plant protein. Her farm also supports bananas, cassava, sweet potatoes, citrus fruits and mangoes. In addition, she keeps indigenous chickens, cows and goats, and rears at least 800 tilapias in a pond fed by run-off water harvested from a nearby road.

Ms Ndivo's enterprise is anchored in the Kamba community's long-standing tradition of saving and exchanging indigenous seeds. “Over the years, we have established that indigenous seeds mature quick-



Charity Ndivo displays bottles of assorted indigenous seeds in Kayata village, Makueni County, on November 3. She grows indigenous crops as a way of coping with erratic rainfall due to climate change. PIUS MAUNDU / NATION

State appeals as farmers celebrate court decision allowing indigenous seeds sharing

ly and tolerate drought, pests and diseases far better than hybrid ones. Nutritionists say many indigenous crops are also rich in nutrients,” she said.

A 2016 amendment to the Seed and Plant Varieties Act—originally enacted in 1972 to regulate the seed industry—restricted Ms Ndivo and other smallholder farmers from fully benefiting from indigenous varieties. The amendment criminalised indigenous seed saving and exchange.

The law also empowered Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (Kephis) inspectors to raid homes and seize uncertified seeds. Anyone wishing to sell seeds was required to register as a seed merchant. Petitioners argued that these certification requirements—which demanded Sh75,000 for registration and Sh10,000 annually for renewal—unfairly discriminated against smallholder farmers.

This prompted 15 smallholder farmers under the Seed Savers Network to challenge the Act in court. Their petition, filed in 2022, stated that criminalising the saving and sharing of indigenous seeds violated farmers' rights and breached international treaties to which Kenya is a party.

They further argued that restricting uncertified seeds threatened biodiversity, food security and cultural heritage, and that the amendments had been introduced without public

participation as required by law.

Greenpeace Africa, an interested party in the case, told the court that the government was exposing smallholders to exploitation by multinational seed corporations.

“Article 9 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, which Kenya has ratified, does not limit the rights of farmers to save, sell or exchange seeds. There is no justification for restricting the right to food,” said lawyer Emily Muthama.

The government, however, denied violating any rights and defended the criminalisation of uncertified seed trading. Kephis insisted the amendments were meant to protect farmers from diseases and low yields associated with uncertified seeds.

But the High Court sided with the petitioners. Justice Rutto found several sections of the law unconstitutional, including Section 3D, which had exposed farmers to arbitrary searches of their homes, farms and stores by Kephis inspectors.

“The registration fee of Sh75,000, the annual renewal fee of Sh10,000, and the stringent requirement for registration as a seed merchant, place smallholder farmers at a disadvantage compared with large-scale farmers,” the judge said in her November 27 judgment.

She added that many small-scale farmers operate informally and that such formalisation offers them little benefit. She also faulted the government for failing to conduct adequate

Article 9 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, which Kenya has ratified, does not limit the rights of farmers to save, sell or exchange seeds. There is no justification for restricting the right to food

Emily Muthama



public participation. “Public participation is a living principle of the Constitution. It ensures that people continue to exercise their sovereign authority in governance,” she said.

The Attorney-General and Kephis have since filed a notice of appeal, signalling their intention to challenge the judgment. “Take note that the 1st and 2nd respondents herein, being aggrieved by and dissatisfied with the judgment of Lady Justice Rhoda Rutto delivered at Macha-

kos on November 27, 2025, intend to appeal to the Court of Appeal,” reads the notice filed on December 2, 2025, by State Counsel Peter Kuria.

Meanwhile, petitioners have continued to celebrate what they describe as a crucial step towards enhancing food security. They are Samuel Wathome, Damaris Kiloko, Mary Munyoli, Anna Wanza, Kisilu Musya, Christine Ndola, Johnson Mulinge, Veronica Kibondo, Richard Opete, Lucy Wanjiru, Francis Ngiri, Beatrice Wangui, Peninah Ngahu, Elly Onda and Alice Sungu.

They say the ruling restores farmers' right to save and sell indigenous seeds. Ms Wangui, who grows indigenous beans and maize, hopes her monthly income will grow from the current Sh10,000–Sh12,000 to at least Sh20,000. “We expect higher sales because we shall no longer be selling in fear of arrest,” she said.

The Seed Savers Network also welcomed the ruling. “There is still much work to be done to ensure that indigenous seeds are recognised in law. We are part of the team revising the legislation. Farmers who have been operating with uncertainty can now stock, package and sell seeds, provided they preserve them well. Once people begin trusting indigenous seeds, this will strengthen climate action and food security,” said Tabby Munyiri, the network's communication strategist.

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