

Unity of faiths as Ramadhan, Lent start on same day P3

DAILY NATION

Impunity Three weeks after the attack on former DP by armed men at a church in Othaya, police are yet to make arrests

In bed with goons

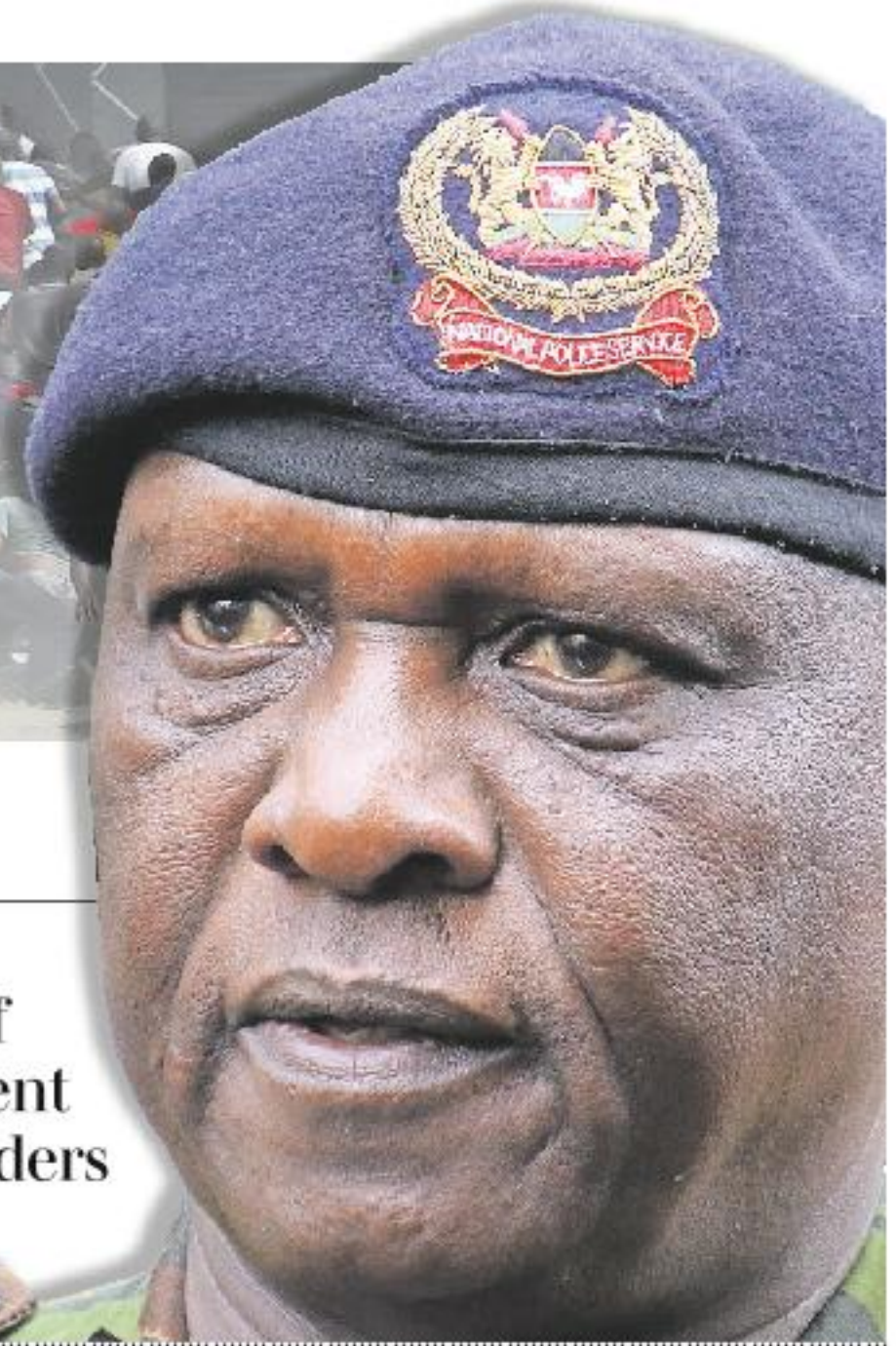


28

The age of Vincent Ayomo who was killed in Kitengela on Sunday when police fired live bullets to disrupt a meeting convened by a faction of ODM leaders



People flee after police opened fire and lobbed tear gas to disrupt an ODM rally in Kitengela on Sunday. STANLEY NGOTHO | NATION



Khadija Riyami will raise her baby without the father, **Vincent Ayomo**, who was killed on Sunday when police violently broke up an ODM rally in Kitengela. Death of the mechanic adds to rising casualties of the lethal force deployed against government critics. Police chief **Douglas Kanja** yesterday skipped a meeting with opposition leaders who allege an unholy alliance between hooligans and State agents. **Pages 4-5**



Options for Sifuna

As he battles a bid to oust him as ODM secretary-general, Edwin Sifuna has stirred the political scene with his resistance to the party backing President Ruto's re-election. But how he navigates the swirling political storm could make or break his career. **PAGE 8**



Families turn to wild fruits as famine bites P.13

HEALTH

High price of beauty: Do you know health impacts of hair products you use? Researchers find carcinogens, banned substances and toxic metals in relaxers / **P2**



National News

Research General terms were used to list some ingredients, making it impossible to determine actual chemicals used

High price of beauty: Why you need to know what's in your hair care products

Researchers find carcinogens, banned substances and toxic metals in relaxers

BY HELLEN SHIKANDA

It takes effort and money to look good by society's standards, which is why the beauty and personal care industry is a gold mine for investors.

But have you ever considered the health impacts of the products you use? Do you check if they are certified and contain chemicals safe for your body?

At the Kenya Medical Research Institute (Kemri) Annual Scientific and Health Conference last week, a symposium on Environmental Exposures and Women's Health in Kenya revealed unsettling findings about personal care products.

Researchers spoke to more than 700 women and asked whether they had used any hair products in the two weeks before the survey. They also asked about preferred brands, narrowing down to 22 common hair products. The

scientists purchased these products from supermarkets and beauty shops in Embu and Nakuuru counties, then analysed them in a laboratory.

The results, published in the journal *Frontiers in Public Health*, showed that the products contain chemicals of concern and metals linked to adverse health outcomes.

A total of 27 chemicals of concern were documented, with 14 relaxer products having undisclosed ingredients. The study also found four substances prohibited under European Union Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 on cosmetics, to which the East African Standard (KS EAS 377-1: 2013) refers.

About 15 relaxers carried the label "for professional use only", yet they were easily available over the counter.

Twelve of the 22 products were made in Kenya. The rest were

from Uganda, Egypt, South Africa and the United States.

Ingredient lists were often vague. Some 14 relaxer labels listed "fragrance" and "parfum" without specifying the chemicals.

"These terms typically refer to complex mixtures of undisclosed chemicals added to create a pleasant aroma or mask the odour of strong ingredients," the study explains.

The Kenya Bureau of Standards (Kebs) cosmetic labelling stand-

All 22 relaxer products contained more than one fragrance chemical, indicating that users are potentially exposed to multiple allergens and complex chemical mixtures

Study



Researchers find that some of the chemicals used in hair care products in Kenya pose a risk to users' health. FILE | NATION

ard (KS EAS 346:2022) requires "perfume" or "flavour" to be listed on labels, but there are no regulations mandating disclosure of constituent chemicals.

None of the 22 relaxer labels contained information on potential adverse health effects.

"All 22 relaxer products contained more than one fragrance chemical, indicating that users are potentially exposed to multiple allergens and complex chemical mixtures," the study notes.

Linalool and limonene/d-limonene, classified as skin and eye irritants, were the most frequently identified fragrance chemicals.

Although the pH values of all 22 relaxers were within Kebs regulatory limits, their extreme alkalinity makes them inherently corrosive, increasing the risk of scalp burns and irritation when use deviates from guidelines.

"The data can inform public health interventions and educational initiatives to increase awareness among consumers, cosmetologists and salon workers regarding potentially harmful chemicals in hair products sold in Kenya," the study states.

Presenting the findings, Dr Beatrice Irungu, Senior Principal Research Scientist and Head of the Chemical Sciences Division at Kemri's Centre for Traditional Medicine and Drug Research, said they found six chemicals that, according to the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, should not be in any personal care product. These include formaldehyde, a known carcinogen.

She, however, said they did not find per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, which are known as "forever chemicals" because they do not break down easily.

Metals found in the study include chromium, cobalt, lead and uranium, all banned in the European Union.

"We were not sure whether the metals were added intentionally or were contaminants. If intentional, they are likely used as colourants. If unintended, they are contaminants from raw materials," she explained.

Dr Irungu said the researchers assessed the chemicals' carcinogenic potential using International Agency for Research on Cancer classifications.

She advised consumers to be vigilant.

"Educate yourself on the products you use. Information is available online," she said.

Prof Llanos Adana, the principal researcher and an epidemiologist, told the *Nation* that although the study was conducted in two counties, it is likely representative of the country.

"The women perceived moderate to high general health risks and breast cancer risk. We expected those who perceived high breast cancer risk would use fewer products, but that is not what we found," she said. "Women should be aware of these chemicals and metals and their potential health risks."

She noted that past studies

show a strong relationship between hair dyes and relaxers and increased breast cancer risk.

"These are not causative associations, but they are statistically significant. These are important exposures to consider," she said.

Judy Nyabuto, representing Kebs at the conference, said the institution conducts regular analysis and has banned several cosmetic products, which are listed on the Kebs website.

She said some skin-lightening products in Kenya contain mercury, which damages kidneys, affects brain function, causes irritation and can trigger autoimmune disease.

"Someone could be wondering why they have a disease they were not born with. It could be related to products containing mercury," she said.

Ms Nyabuto added that Kebs also conducted surveillance on hair products in Nairobi and Machakos counties and all liquid and hair dyes tested did not comply with Kebs standards.

Kebs also analysed hydroquinone, a compound in lotions used for skin whitening. She said it should only be used under prescription for about two weeks. Overexposure can cause skin darkening and sensitivity to ultraviolet rays, limiting melanin production.

When Kebs finds such products, Ms Nyabuto said, the surveillance team can destroy them or prosecute manufacturers.

Dr Elias Melly, Chief Executive of the National Cancer Institute, said that since some chemicals have been associated with cancer, the institute can create awareness when solid data confirms causation.

"We do not want to misinform people," he said. "We see an opportunity to invest in research so that those causing these risks participate in solving our problems. We need to build more capacity locally."

To verify if a product has been approved by Kebs, send an SMS to 20023. Type SM (hashtag) followed by the permit number.

hshikanda@ke.nationmedia.com

DTB DIAMOND TRUST BANK

Notice on Reduction of Base Lending Rate

Following the Central Bank of Kenya's revision of the Central Bank Rate (CBR) from 9.00% to 8.75% on 10 February 2026, DTB wishes to inform you of the following:

- All new local currency variable-rate loans will be priced at a base rate of 8.75%, plus the applicable risk-based premium (K), in accordance with the Risk Based Credit Pricing Model (RBCPM).
- All existing local currency variable-rate loans currently priced on CBR + Premium (K) will have the CBR component revised from 9.00% to 8.75% p.a. effective 11 March 2026.
- All existing local currency variable-rate loans taken before 1 December 2025 will continue under their prevailing terms and will transition to the RBCPM on 28 February 2026 as earlier communicated.

DTB remains committed to full compliance with all regulatory guidelines issued by the Central Bank of Kenya.

For any inquiries or assistance, please contact your Relationship Manager, visit your nearest DTB branch, or reach out to our Contact Centre on 0719 031888.

Bank with us. Bank on us.

Religion While there are usually overlaps, starting on the same day occurs after decades

Rare spiritual sync as Lent and Ramadhan start on same day

Both religious traditions involve fasting and other acts of self-denial as believers seek to grow spiritually



Christians on Ash Wednesday at Our Lady of Consolata Catholic Cathedral, Nyeri, on March 5, 2025. JOSEPH KANYI | NATION

BY ANTHONY KITIMO

Tomorrow, both Muslims and Christians across the world will, for the first time in decades, jointly begin a season of fasting, reflection and introspection.

For Christians, it will be Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period commemorating the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness before starting his ministry.

Meanwhile, Muslims will begin the holy month of Ramadhan upon the sighting of the new crescent moon, which is expected either this evening or tomorrow evening. Ramadhan commemorates the month in which Prophet Muhammad received the Quranic revelations and involves daily fasting from dawn to sunset.

Ramadhan is expected to run from February 18 to March 19, while Lent leads up to the beginning of Easter on April 5.

Such an alignment has not been

experienced in more than three decades. Scholars say this rarity, last witnessed in the early 1990s, results from the overlap of lunar and solar calendars, with the next similar occurrence expected in the late 2050s.

However, in some previous years, Lent and Ramadhan aligned for some days. For instance, last year, Lent was observed from March 5 to April 17, while Ramadhan was from March 1 to March 30.

We should see this as a unique opportunity for interfaith dialogue and shared community reflection

Ms Lillian Japanni



Muslims in prayer at the Masjid Ummu Kulthum on the first Friday of the Holy Month of Ramadhan on March 7, 2025. WACHIRA MWANGI

“Ramadhan is much more movable; it rotates through the year every 33 years, falling about 11 days earlier each year. It last overlapped with Lent in the early 90s, and now it has come around again,” a scientific journal by the Astronomical Applications Department of the US Naval Observatory stated.

For Catholics, Lent includes fasting from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday, as well as abstaining from meat on all Fridays during the period.

“If you count the days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday’s Mass of the Lord’s Supper, you’ll get more than 40 days. That’s why it’s not exactly 40 days,” explained Lillian Japanni, Executive Secretary of the Catholic Justice and Peace Department, Archdiocese of Mombasa.

She added: “This year, the penitential season coincides with Ramadhan. Maybe it’s God’s plan for Muslims and Catholics to begin fasting together. We should

shared humanity and a call for peace, empathy, and understanding.

Christians observing the fast are allowed one full meal with the possibility of two smaller meals that together do not equal a full one, and no eating between meals. These obligations are set for adults aged 18–59, while those aged from 14 years should abstain from meat.

Additionally, the church teaches that Lent is a period for prayer, works of charity and spiritual conversion in preparation for Easter. The faithful are encouraged to undertake personal acts of penance, pray more and focus on growing closer to God.

“Ramadhan is one of the most important observances in Islam and one of the Five Pillars. All Muslims, except the very young, very old, pregnant, or travelling are required to fast daily, abstain from sex and avoid wrongdoing

see this as a unique opportunity for interfaith dialogue and shared community reflection.”

Muslim cleric Sheikh Mohamed Khalifa agreed, saying that the convergence of Lent and Ramadhan this year is a reminder of

from sunrise to sunset,” said Mr Khalifa.

During Ramadhan, Muslims abstain from all food, drink, smoking and sexual activity from dawn (fajr) until sunset (maghrib) every day. Before dawn, believers eat suhoor, a pre-fast meal and at sunset, they break the fast with iftar, traditionally beginning with dates and water followed by a full meal.

In preparation for Ramadhan, the National Treasury approved the waiver of Import Declaration Fee and Railway Development Levy for dates, easing access for the Muslim community.

In addition to fasting, Muslims intensify prayers and recitation of the Quran. Special nightly prayers called taraweeh are held at mosques after the Isha prayer, often involving sequential recitation of the entire Quran over the month.

Charity is strongly emphasised during Ramadhan. Zakat al Fitr is a required alms-giving at the end of Ramadhan to ensure all can celebrate Eid al Fitr. Muslims are encouraged to give additional charity (sadaqah) and help the needy throughout the month.

In towns with large populations of both Muslim and Christian faithful, business is expected to be slow, particularly in eateries.

“I will have to close down for a month for renovations since there will be no business,” said Albert Mwachha, a hotel owner in Tudor, Mombasa.

Muslim leaders differ on moon sighting

BY CECIL ODONGO

A row has erupted among Muslims on when the fasting for the holy month of Ramadhan should begin after a section of religious leaders opposed the announcement by the office of Chief Kadhi that faithful should look out for the crescent moon this evening.

Some religious leaders say that in accordance with the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad, the crescent moon should be observed on 29th of Shaban (eighth month of the Muslim calendar), which is Wednesday February 18 and not February 17.

The office of Acting Chief Kadhi Sheikh Sukyan Hassan Omar had indicated that Muslims should observe the lunar crescent moon today.

“All Muslims across the country are hereby requested to be on the lookout for the crescent (hilal) on that evening and promptly convey any verified sighting to the Office of the Acting Chief Kadhi

through 0794 339 467,” reads the notice.

This means that if the crescent moon is sighted this evening, fasting will commence tomorrow. If the moon is not sighted, Ramadhan will start on Thursday.

“The Chief Kadhi is misleading Muslims by saying we should start the process of sighting the moon on Tuesday, which is the 28th day of Shaban. There is no crescent moon on that day, so what will we be looking for yet it is not even according to the teachings?” asked Council of Imam and Preachers of Kenya North Rift Chairman Sheikh Abubakar Bini.

The Kenya Fatwa Council has also opposed the notice from the Chief Kadhi, saying the moon should be sighted from tomorrow and not today.

“All Muslims are encouraged to look for the crescent (Hilal) on the evening of Wednesday, 18th February 2026, corresponding to the 29th of Sha’ban 1447H,” read the statement from the council.

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National News

Accountability Political leaders and civil society actors have accused police leadership and Ipoa of not taking action

Death and violence as police, goons partner against the opposition

The killing of Vincent Ayomo during the rally in Kitengela on Sunday comes after several attacks on opposition figures by the police or by goons enjoying the protection of the security apparatus

BY STEVE OTIENO

Outside the Nairobi Funeral Home, Khadija Riyami stood as if in a trance, speaking very slowly, the pain of her husband's violent death weighing heavily on her.

Vincent Ayomo, 28, a mechanic, had left for work in Kitengela on Sunday morning. By nightfall, the father of a one-and-a-half-year-old was lying in a morgue — shot below the left eye.

"I was called yesterday by his colleagues telling me that Vincent has been shot dead... They told me that he was crossing the road going for some spare parts when he was shot. That some police officers were the ones who shot him," she recounted.

"I immediately made calls to family members and my friends and we started going round in

mortuaries in Kitengela but did not find him. We were told to look for him at Nairobi Funeral Home. We came in the morning and found him here. I positively identified him," she added.

Vincent's killing happened as chaos erupted during a rally by a faction of ODM led by Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna. What was billed as a political meeting quickly descended into chaos—running battles, tear gas and gunfire.

According to his colleague Peter Oluoch, Vincent was not part of the rally.

"I was in church yesterday and after service, I decided to go check on the garage where I worked with Vincent," Mr Oluoch said. "As I left, I called Vincent and he told me that he was working at the garage and would only leave once he was done with some work. The

plan was that I meet him there." But by the time Mr Oluoch approached the area, the situation had deteriorated.

"I found tear gas and bullets were flying everywhere. I feared crossing the road," he said. Rain began to fall. He sheltered at a nearby supermarket. Then Vincent's number flashed on his phone.

"The call got cut as soon as I received it. I called back immediately and a stranger received the call. The person told me bluntly: 'Your friend has been shot, he fell down and died instantly'."

He rushed to the spot behind a Bata shop near Lenana Agrovet in Kitengela town.

"A bullet had hit below his eye and exited behind his head... No stone can hit someone in the eye, tear through flesh and exit at the back of the head. All I ask for is justice. The people mandated to protect us are the ones who are

1.5

Vincent Ayomo leaves behind a one-and-a-half-year-old daughter

shooting at us," he said.

Vincent's elder brother, Moses Ayomo, was at home when the calls began.

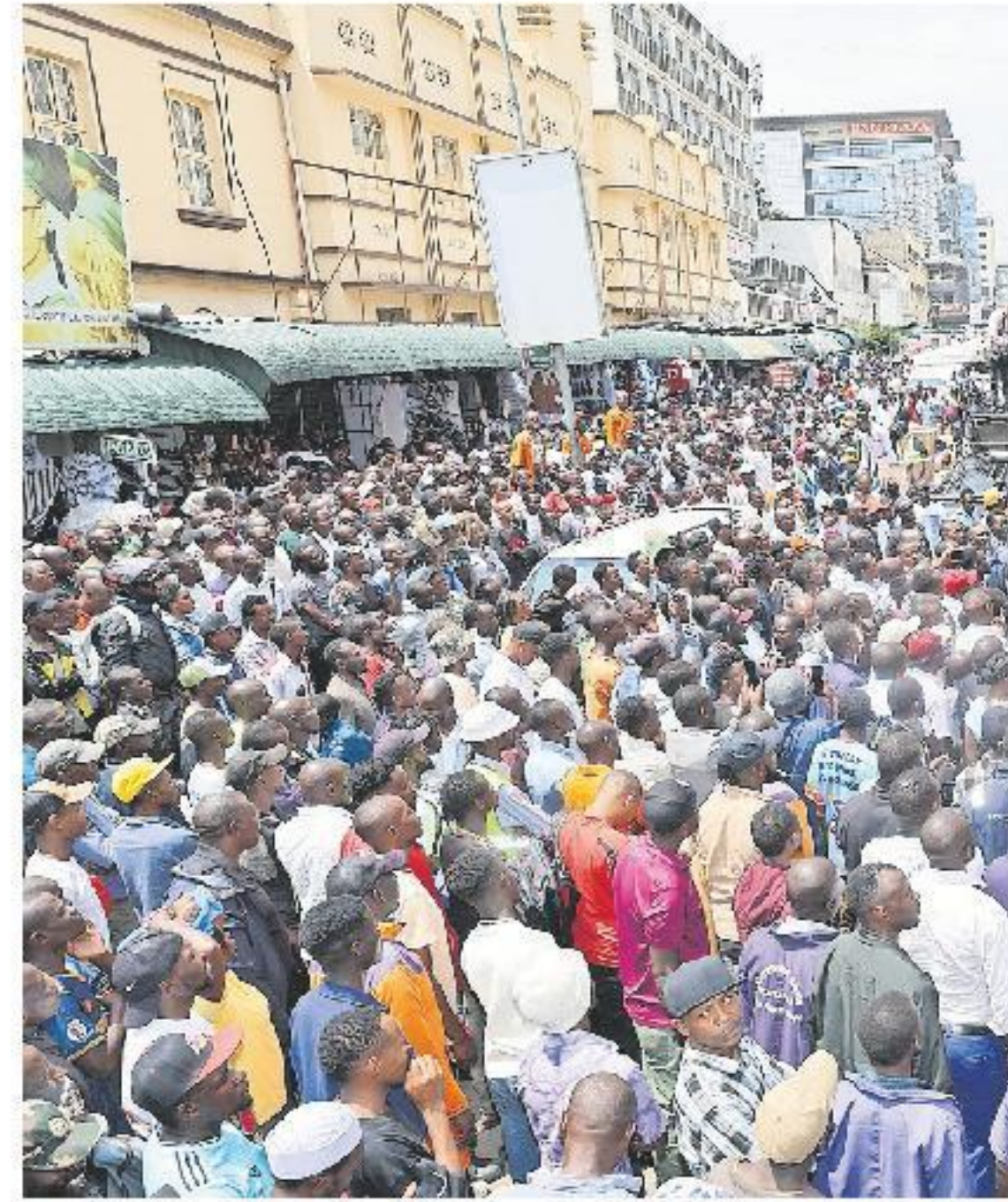
"I had a strange feeling on Sunday, so much so that I could not work and went back home. Around 6.30pm, a phone call woke me. It was from a relative in Nyakach. He asked me: 'Have you heard what happened?' He told me Vincent had been shot dead." As he tried to leave the house, gunfire echoed through the neighbourhood.

"The loud gunshots continued until past 9pm," he said.

Isinya Sub-County Police Commander Simon Lokitari confirmed people were injured during the chaos. He, however, said it was too early to determine the cause of Vincent's death, noting an autopsy would be conducted to establish whether he was shot.

"So far we (police) have recorded one fatality and three people sustained injuries. We encourage those who sustained injuries to come out and make a report at Kitengela Police Station," he said.

Vincent's death has become more than a family tragedy. It has reignited national outrage about escalating violence at political



Opposition leaders Kalonzo Musyoka, Rigathi Gachagua and Eugene Wamalwa address a rally on Ronald Ngala Street in Nairobi yesterday. PHOTO | POOL

rallies—and allegations of an "unholy alliance" between rogue police officers and hired goons deployed to disrupt opposition events.

For months, opposition leaders and civil society groups have accused sections of the security apparatus of either working with or turning a blind eye to organised gangs that descend on rallies armed with crude weapons. In many cases, they say, the violence unfolds in the presence of police—and sometimes alongside

them. This worrying trend was evident during anti-government protests in 2024 and 2025, and also during last year's by-elections.

Yesterday, opposition leaders returned to police headquarters for a meeting with Inspector-General of Police Douglas Kanja to demand action on rogue police and goons blamed for violence during a service at ACK Witima in Othaya three weeks ago.

The attack is among a string of incidents in which armed police and goons have disrupted gath-



PUBLIC NOTICE

Revision of Risk Based Pricing for Variable Rate Loans

National Bank of Kenya (NBK) hereby notifies its customers and the general public of changes to the pricing of Kenya Shilling variable-rate loans.

Following the February 2026 Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting and the subsequent adjustment of the Central Bank Rate (CBR), the Bank has updated its loan pricing reference rate in line with regulatory guidelines.

Key Changes

- Effective 13th February 2026, all new Kenya Shilling variable-rate loans will be priced at CBR 8.75%, plus a Risk-Based premium ("K") determined by the borrower's risk profile and other parameters approved by the Central Bank of Kenya.
- Loans issued prior to 1st December 2025 will be transitioned to the revised Risk-Based Credit Pricing Methodology (RBCPM) by 28th February 2026.
- Existing loans issued after 12th December 2025 will be adjusted to CBR 8.75% + premium "K" effective 13th March 2026.

NBK remains committed to transparency, fairness, and responsible lending. We will continue to disclose the total cost of credit, including all applicable fees and charges, to enable customers to make informed financial decisions. These changes reflect our dedication to supporting customers' financial well-being while contributing positively to our communities and the Kenyan economy.

For more information, please visit your nearest NBK branch or call: 0703 088 900 / (020) 282 8900

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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Aga Khan Education Service, Kenya (AKES, Kenya) operates five schools in Kenya and provides nursery to senior secondary education in both national and international curricula.

The Aga Khan Academy, Nairobi - Senior School has an opening for the position of **Physics Teacher (Academic Year 2026-2027)**.

Role Summary

The candidate will teach Physics across the IB MYP and DP and work collaboratively within the Science Department to deliver engaging, rigorous and student-centred learning experiences.

Key Responsibilities

- Plan and deliver high-quality Physics lessons aligned with IB MYP and DP frameworks.
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- Develop, administer and moderate formative and summative assessments in line with IB standards.
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- Use differentiated teaching strategies to meet diverse student learning needs.
- Foster a safe, inclusive and stimulating classroom environment.
- Communicate effectively with students, parents and colleagues.
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Qualifications & Experience

- A Bachelor's degree in Physics or Physics Education from a recognized university.
- A Master's degree is desirable.
- 5 years' teaching experience teaching secondary Physics, preferably within an international curriculum setting.
- Experience teaching IB MYP and / or DP Physics is strongly preferred.
- Qualified Teacher Status.
- Candidates currently in Kenya will require TSC registration.
- Demonstrated ability to teach in a diverse, multicultural, international school environment, with a strong understanding of student-centred, inquiry-based pedagogy and assessment practices aligned to international standards.

This position welcomes applications from all qualified candidates, including those locally based and internationally experienced.

Application Deadline: February 24, 2026.

For more details on the position and the application process, please visit www.the.akdn/careers/2273470.

Summons to Enter Appearance 0.5 r.1[1]



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
IN THE ENVIRONMENT AND LAND COURT AT MOMBASA
ELCLC NO. E109 OF 2025

GEORGE KAMAU KAGIRI & 8 OTHERS
(C/o Daly Inamdar Advocates LLP).....Plaintiffs
against
RUWA MWAMUNDA MWANJENO & 6 OTHERS.....Defendants

TO: RUWA MWAMUNDA MWANJENO
NDORO KALAMA SHAIB
MWANAJUMA MOHAMED SALIM
MUGUNYA NYIRO NDDORO
JUMWA KATANA RUWA
CHENGO MWAKALASI MLENGO
LAND REGISTRAR, MOMBASA COUNTY MOMBASA

WHEREAS the above-named Plaintiffs have instituted a suit against you upon the claim, the particulars of which are set out in the copy of the Plaintiff with annexure attached hereto. YOU ARE HEREBY REQUIRED within 15 days from the date of service hereof to enter an appearance in the said suit.

Should you fail to enter an appearance within the time mentioned above, the Plaintiff may proceed with the suit and judgment may be given in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 23 day of October 2025

Deputy Registrar

Note:- You may appear in this suit by entering an appearance either personally or by duly appointed advocate at MOMBASA. Appearance can be entered by filing with the Court Memo. of Appearance (forms are obtained from Court) in duplicate, showing the defendant's address for service. A filing fee must accompany such memoranda. A copy of Memo. of Appearance should also be sent to the plaintiff or his advocate, if any.
GPK (L)

Drawn by:
Daly Inamdar Advocates LLP
Sea View Plaza 1st floor
Mama Ngina Drive.
P.O. Box 80483-80100, MOMBASA

despite promises following every incident of excessive use of force against peaceful Kenyans exercising their rights



erings attended by former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

Led by Mr Gachagua (DCP), Kalonzo Musyoka (Wiper Patriotic Front) and Eugene Wamalwa (DAP-K), the opposition leaders stood frustrated outside Mr Kanja's office yesterday after they

were informed the police boss wasn't in. The leaders refused to meet the officers assigned to handle their case at Jogoo House.

Mr Wamalwa attacked the police for what he termed "an unholy alliance with goons," warning that Kenya is sliding into a dan-

gerous phase where State power is fused with street-level violence.

"Instead of having a government that is accountable to the people, that respects human rights, we have a 'goon government' where goons and government officers work hand in hand," he said.

Mr Gachagua alleged that officers linked to attacks at rallies and church gatherings had been identified but shielded from prosecution. He further accused President William Ruto and Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen of presiding over an administration intolerant of democratic competition—an accusation that government officials have previously rejected.

"This is just the beginning of pressure from the Kenyan people because if we allow this impunity ahead of the General Election next year, there could be anarchy in this country. We must bring order and the IG and the people under him must be held to account by the people of Kenya. The police themselves are also complaining about harassment," Mr Gachagua said.

"He (Kanja) escaped a very important meeting that involved the security of all Kenyans. It was a meeting well known by the police but still, people died," Mr Musyoka said.

Mr Kanja did not respond to the *Nation's* inquiries regarding the

aborted meeting with the opposition leaders.

Mr Sifuna, through a statement, condemned what he described as State-sponsored political violence and pressed the police to explain Vincent's death.

"He committed no crime. He provoked nobody. So why did the police kill him? Kenyans will not surrender and live on their knees," Mr Sifuna said.

Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro warned that heavy-handed tactics could backfire.

"Those thinking that they can use tear gas to manage how Kenyans think and who they associate with are daydreaming. The trend you are setting will come back to haunt you," he said.

The National Police Service was yet to release a detailed account of what transpired in Kitengela by the time of going to press.

In previous cases, police have typically promised investigations and urged patience pending forensic analysis. Critics argue that such responses have become mundane—buying time while public outrage fades.

Kenya's history shows how political violence can spiral when trust in law enforcement erodes. At stake is not just public order, but the legitimacy of institutions tasked with protecting citizens' constitutional rights, including the right to peaceful assembly.

As the country edges closer to

He committed no crime. He provoked nobody. So why did the police kill him? Kenyans will not surrender and live on their knees

Senator Edwin Sifuna



the 2027 elections, the stakes are rising. Rallies are no longer just political theatre; they are flash-points. The line between crowd control and lethal force appears increasingly blurred.

Mr Fredrick Ojiro, Head of Rapid Response at Vocal Africa, said Vincent's killing fits a disturbing pattern.

"A week does not pass without the police being involved in the shooting of innocent Kenyans ... Vincent had just left work and was not involved in any way in the rally, and even if he was, what wrong had he committed to warrant the shooting?" he asked.

Mr Ojiro compared the incident to the recent shooting of Cheryl Adhiambo in Huruma, where a post-mortem confirmed death by gunshot.

"We are tired of the statements

released by the National Police Service every time young people are killed, claiming they will arrest offenders shortly after they get post-mortem examination results," he said. "How long will we be doing post-mortem examinations and no officer involved is arrested?"

He called on Mr Kanja to act decisively, adding that both he Mr Murkomen should consider resigning if accountability continues to stall.

The activist also criticised the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (Ipoa) on their "snail-paced" response to the numerous incidents of police brutality and killings, saying they should "act and produce results".

Ipoa issued a statement saying it has launched investigations into the fatal incident during the rally in Kitengela. Vice-Chairperson Ann Wanjiku said they have deployed a rapid response team to "establish the circumstances surrounding the incident, determine the extent of police involvement, assess whether the use of force was justified, and evaluate whether it was proportionate as defined by the law".

Ipoa also pledged to make its findings public and recommend action against any officers found culpable.

Additional reporting by Stanley Ngotho.



APPOINTMENT

Sylvester Nzioka | Managing Director

Pacis Insurance Company appoints **Mr. Sylvester Nzioka as the Managing Director, effective 13th February 2026**. The appointment follows a structured leadership transition and reflects the Board's commitment to sustained growth, operational excellence and customer-centric service delivery.

Mr. Nzioka is a seasoned insurance executive and strategic leader with nearly two decades of experience across actuarial, operational, and transformation leadership roles within the insurance sector. Prior to joining Pacis Insurance Company, he served as Principal Officer at Jubilee Allianz Kenya, where he led key cultural and digital transformation initiatives, Chief Operating Officer at Jubilee Allianz Uganda, where he drove operational and technical excellence, and as Transformation Lead for Anglophone Africa at Allianz Africa, where he successfully project-managed the acquisition and integration of a leading insurance group across five countries.

As Managing Director, Mr. Nzioka will focus on strengthening operational efficiency, advancing digital innovation, deepening customer-centricity, and leveraging Pacis' unique positioning within the Catholic ecosystem to deliver meaningful impact and long-term value for stakeholders. This appointment follows the exit of Ms. Jean Moegi, who served in this role from the year 2020, during which she provided steady and value-driven leadership. She played a central role in strengthening corporate governance, advancing strategic and operational growth, and deepening stakeholder confidence. Her collaborative and principled leadership laid a strong foundation for the Company's continued success and future growth. The Board and Management express their sincere appreciation for her dedicated service.

We assure our customers and stakeholders of a smooth transition and protection of your interests as we enter this new chapter.

By Order Of The Board
Pacis Insurance Company Limited



National News

Cover-up Police have been accused of frustrating investigation after saying Ipoa would take over from the DCI

Police seek Gachagua statement as probe into attack drags on

Footage shows attackers shooting in the air and throwing tear gas in church

BY MWANGI MUIRURI

The National Police Service (NPS) now wants Democracy for Citizens Party leader Rigathi Gachagua to record a formal complaint over the January 25 incident in which officers and goons attacked worshippers inside ACK Witima in Othaya, Nyeri County.

Footage of the attack, which was widely circulated online shows attackers firing live bullets, hurling stones and lobbing tear gas canisters into the church compound as officers in an official vehicle appeared to provide cover.

In a statement dated February 15 and signed by NPS Spokesperson Muchiri Nyagah, the police said: "The success and speed of the process is significantly dependent on formal reporting, detailed witness accounts and cooperation of complainants and members of the public."

He said that upon receiving reports of alleged criminal activity, officers promptly initiated investigations in accordance with the law.

Mr Nyagah indicated that preliminary inquiries had been undertaken based on information in the public domain, but insisted that comprehensive investigations required affected persons and witnesses to record official statements.

"Officers have recorded statements, reviewed available footage and analysed intelligence to establish the circumstances sur-

rounding the incident and identify any individuals responsible. The NPS continues to appeal to anyone with relevant information to come forward and assist investigating officers. This cooperation is essential to ensure justice is not only pursued but demonstrably upheld," he said.

He reiterated that the service re-

The NPS continues to appeal to anyone with relevant information to come forward and assist investigating officers

NPS Spokesperson Muchiri Nyagah



Democracy for the Citizens Party leader Rigathi Gachagua addresses journalists in Nairobi on February 10. BONFACE BOGITA | NATION

mained committed to impartiality, professionalism and adherence to the rule of law.

Mr Gachagua, who was attending the service was evacuated from the scene by his handlers, while some vehicles in his entourage were damaged. He later described the incident as an assassination attempt.

Despite condemnation from Deputy President Kithure Kindiki, Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen and In-

spector-General of Police Douglas Kanja, all of whom promised swift investigations and arrests, no suspect has been apprehended more than three weeks later.

In what was interpreted by some as the beginning of a cover-up, Central Region Commissioner Joshua Nkanatha announced on January 29 that the matter was not being investigated by the Directorate of Criminal Investigations. Instead, he said, the Independent Policing Over-

sight Authority (Ipoa) would take over the probe.

"For obvious reasons, the police cannot investigate themselves," Mr Nkanatha said.

However, Ipoa's mandate is limited to investigating misconduct and excesses by the police and does not extend to crimes involving civilians.

Mr Gachagua dismissed the statement as "chaotic logic aimed at covering up the attack" and an affront to freedom of worship.

"We have always maintained that the government had no intention to investigate the attack because it was its own baby," he said. He added that Mr Nkanatha had effectively admitted as much by stating that police could not investigate themselves.

Mr Gachagua further alleged that the attack was staged with the involvement of politicians allied to President William Ruto's administration.

Advocate Ndegwa Njiru stated that "unless Mr Nkanatha wants us to perceive the attack as that which was wholly mooted, facilitated and executed by members of the National Police Service, this is the start of a grand cover-up".

He added that "the attackers included members of the public well recognised in the footage and preliminary investigations indicate that there were politicians who were incriminated in the attacks".

SUPPLIER PREQUALIFICATION NOTICE 2026-2028

Habib Bank AG Zurich was established in Switzerland in 1967 and has grown into a global institution with a presence in 11 countries spanning across four continents. Habib Bank AG Zurich Kenya invites eligible suppliers to participate in the prequalification in 51 categories in Nairobi and Mombasa for the years 2026-2028. This applies to both existing and prospective suppliers. The supplier prequalification exercise will be conducted online via:



TenderSure™ platform is secure, transparent and provides an efficient prequalification process. Interested suppliers may access and register on www.tendersure.africa under the "Available Jobs" tab. Access to the prequalification will be granted upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **KES 2,500.00** per category. All payments will be made online via M-PESA, Visa Card and MasterCard amongst others. The online prequalification exercise closes on **13th March 2026 at 10pm EAT**.

In case of any inquiry kindly contact us at help@tendersure.africa or +254 709 557 000 or via WhatsApp +254 114 892 485.

Important Notes

- Existing suppliers are required to participate alongside prospective suppliers to be evaluated and considered for future business.
- All participants who duly complete the Supplier Prequalification process online will be notified of the outcome via email.
- Participation in the Supplier Prequalification is not a guarantee for business.
- Habib Bank AG Zurich Kenya reserves the right to accept or reject any bid as a whole or in part at its own discretion.**

Habib Bank AG Zurich

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THE NAIROBI HOSPITAL

COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, KENYA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION "THE HOSPITAL"

This is to notify all our stakeholders and the general public that the leadership of the Hospital in accordance with the Company's Articles of Association is as follows:

1. Dr. Barclay Onyambu:	Chairman
2. Dr. Samson Kinyanjui, PhD:	Vice Chairman
3. Dr. Agnes Gachoki:	Member
4. Prof. Timothy Byakika:	Member
5. Dr. Magdalene Muthoka, PhD:	Member
6. Prof. John Mwero:	Member
7. Ms. Valerie Gaya:	Member
8. Ms. Anne Njuguna:	Member
9. Mr. Erick Okeyo, MBS, MKIM:	Member
10. Mr. Philip Kisia, MBS, MKIM, FMSK:	Member
11. Eng. Christopher Oanda:	Member
12. Dr. Silverster Kasuku, PhD, MBM, FKIP:	Member
13. Mr. Moses Ondaba:	Member
14. Mr. Lekek Chebii:	Member

The Principal Officers of the Board are:

1. Mr. Felix Osano:	Chief Executive Officer
2. Mr. Gilbert Nyamweya:	Company Secretary

Any communication on the affairs of the Hospital is only made by the Chairman of the Board and/or the Chief Executive Officer.

Healthcare with a difference!

Legislation Bill introduces new offences, including sexual exploitation of learners

TSC seeks powers to punish teachers in proposed law

Amendments aim to strengthen accountability, curb abuse, and enhance professional standards

BY DAVID MUCHUNGUH

Teachers involved in sexual misconduct with learners could face disciplinary measures, including deregistration, if the draft Teachers Service Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2025 becomes law.

The proposed legislation also seeks to empower the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) to take administrative action against teachers who conduct or facilitate holiday tuition, charge unauthorised fees, or withhold learners' certificates for national examinations.

The Bill introduces new offences, including sexual exploitation of learners, and broadens the definition of serious offences to cover acts that "grossly offend public policy and interest." It categorises misconduct into three groups: immoral behaviour with a learner, professional misconduct, and infamous conduct.

Immoral behaviour includes sexual harassment, flirtation, love relationships with learners, exposure to pornography, giving gifts to influence learners into immoral conduct, and aiding or abetting immoral acts.

Professional misconduct covers negligence of duty, chronic lateness or absenteeism, desertion, incitement, insubordination, and poor performance.

Infamous conduct comprises a wide range of breaches, including drunkenness, fighting, use of vulgar or abusive language, and cyberbullying. It also covers falsifying official documents or data, mismanagement, misappropriation, and embezzlement of public funds. Other offences under this category include exposing learners to, or supplying them with, drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as engaging in other gainful employment while employed by the TSC.

Under the proposed amendments, the TSC would have the authority to suspend or deregister teachers found guilty of mis-



The Teachers Service Commission headquarters in Upper Hill, Nairobi, on June 21, 2025. FILE | NATION

conduct. An internal review committee will handle appeals before cases are referred to court.

The Bill was not among the seven approved by Cabinet on February 10, 2026. However, TSC commissioners recently met with the Education Committee of the National Assembly, chaired by Tinderet MP Julius Melly, to discuss its provisions.

The Bill defines sexual exploitation as "sexual abuse of a learner through exchange of sex or sexual acts for academic grades, pocket money, school fees, learning materials, protection from school punishment, illicit drugs, gifts, food, shelter or other essentials; or involving learners in creating, accessing, or distributing pornographic and sexually explicit materials."

It further defines a serious offence as "offences that attract capital punishment under the law, or other acts or omissions which grossly offend public interest, making the concerned teacher unsuitable to continue serving in the teaching service."

The Bill has undergone revisions since its first public presentation in 2024. The TSC engaged stakeholders, including the Ministry of Education, to resolve overlaps between their re-

spective draft Bills. These negotiations were mediated by Deputy President Kithure Kindiki.

In May last year, top officials from the MoE, led by Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba, and the TSC team, led by Chairperson Jamleck Muturi, signed a framework at the Deputy President's official residence in Karen.

This allowed the TSC, as a constitutional independent commission, to process its amendment Bill separately from the Ministry of Education's legislation.

A TSC source explained, "It is a government Bill and will be sponsored by the Education Committee of the National Assembly. The alternative would

It ... will be sponsored by the Education Committee of the National Assembly. The alternative would have been the Leader of Majority in the National Assembly.

Source at TSC



have been the Leader of Majority in the National Assembly."

The main points of contention between the MoE and TSC were on quality assurance and measuring teachers' performance.

Under the aligned framework, the TSC will oversee performance standards of its employees, while the MoE retains quality assurance of schools, including funding oversight.

School heads will operate under a dual mandate, serving as a shared resource between the TSC and the Ministry of Education, the source added.

The draft Bill also proposes redefining institutional administrator to include heads of schools, deputy principals, registrars, deans, and senior teachers.

If enacted, the TSC will gain powers to decentralise operations through zonal offices, establish new directorates, and create an Institute of Teacher Support and Professional Development to oversee continuous professional training.

The amendments aim to strengthen accountability, curb abuse, and enhance professional standards across the country's teaching service.

dmuchunguh@ke.nationmedia.com

Taxpayers pick Sh3bn tab as audit exposes wasteful spending by universities

BY ERIC MATARA

An audit has exposed widespread financial mismanagement in public universities, with irregular allowances, unsupported payments and procurement breaches putting more than Sh3 billion of taxpayer funds at risk. Auditor-General Nancy Gathungu's latest report highlights weak internal controls and poor financial governance across institutions already grappling with a deepening financial crisis.

Ten public universities — Kenyatta University, Moi University, University of Nairobi, University of Kabianga, Egerton University, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, Murang'a University of Technology, Maasai Mara University, Technical University of Kenya and Technical University of Mombasa — spent Sh2.8 billion without providing supporting documents. Egerton University paid Sh6.3 million in rent to two landlords without valid contracts, while Murang'a University of Technology spent Sh786,060 on air travel and mileage allowances for council members without documentation.

The University of Nairobi spent Sh1.78 billion on accommodation, catering and payments to casual workers, but failed to support Sh133.9 million in catering and accommodation costs, Sh662,662 spent by the council, and Sh1.64 billion paid to casual employees.

At the University of Kabianga, Sh22.5 million was spent leasing land from Telkom Kenya Limited without valid lease agreements. Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology paid Sh18 million to casual workers without evidence of recruitment procedures and recorded unsupported expenditure of Sh278 million. The Technical University of Kenya spent Sh8.7 million on council meetings but provided minutes for only four out of 14 special meetings held.

The audit also found that 14 universities made irregular payments totalling Sh268.99 million, including excessive mileage

claims, unsupported legal and security payments, direct allowances to police officers, and irregular acting allowances.

Kenyatta University made irregular mileage reimbursements of Sh13.6 million. Egerton University paid Sh12.2 million irregularly to police officers and lawyers, while Maasai Mara University paid Sh26.2 million in irregular acting allowances.

South Eastern Kenya University procured fuel worth Sh12.3 million without a contract, and Multi-Media University made irregular payments for legal, security and cleaning services.

At the University of Nairobi, Sh13.9 million was irregularly paid in acting allowances and legal fees. Koitalel Samoei University College spent Sh3.8 million irregularly on air ticketing, allowances and retreats, while Turkana University College paid Sh1.42 million to non-teaching staff as

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Number of public universities flagged in the audit report as having spent Sh2.8 billion without supporting documents.

part-time lecturers during working hours. Other institutions cited include Alupe University College, Garissa University, Machakos University, Taita Taveta University, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and the University of Kabianga, which collectively made irregular payments amounting to Sh144 million.

The audit further revealed procurement irregularities worth Sh1.34 billion in 10 universities, including contracts awarded without documentation, procurement outside approved plans and failure to use e-procurement systems. The University of Nairobi recorded procurement breaches amounting to Sh727.3 million, followed by the University of Kabianga at Sh355.3 million and Kenyatta University at Sh53.1 million.

NMG, Haco Industries in bid to boost literacy in schools

BY LYNET IGADWAH

The Nation Media Group (NMG) has partnered with Haco Industries Ltd to supply newspapers to 15 schools nationwide to promote reading and literacy.

Under the agreement, each school will receive 20 copies of the *Daily Nation* and 30 weekly copies of *Taiifa Leo* valued at Sh60,000 annually through NMG's Newspaper in Education (NiE) programme. Haco will also provide recycling bins

under its Green Learning Initiative to collect used stationery for recycling. Speaking during the signing at Nation Centre, NMG chief executive Geoffrey Odundo said the partnership supports the group's mission to inform, educate and entertain while strengthening literacy among learners.

The NiE programme uses newspapers and educational content to improve reading, writing and comprehension in primary and secondary schools. It also publish-

es student achievements and runs monthly essay competitions in English and Kiswahili. Haco CEO Mary-Ann Musangi said the firm will mentor learners on sustainability and career pathways.

Scholarships for needy learners will be provided through the CK Foundation, established in honour of Chris Kirubi. The initiative also includes school visits by NMG editorial teams and NTV Jioni to encourage reading and motivate candidates ahead of national exams.



NMG boss Geoffrey Odundo and Haco Industries MD Mary-Anne Kirubi during the signing of a partnership deal at Nation Centre yesterday. DENNIS ONSONGO | NATION

National News

Politics Hearing in the case of his removal as ODM secretary-general set for February 26

Sifuna's make-or-break moment

His next move, in the face of internal turmoil in ODM, and shifting alliances around him, will carry serious ramifications

BY COLLINS OMULO

Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) Secretary-General Edwin Sifuna faces a dilemma. He has four options that could make or break his political career ahead of the 2027 General Election.

The Nairobi senator finds himself in a fluid political landscape. His next move, in the face of internal turmoil in ODM, and the shifting alliances around him, will carry serious ramifications for his future.

The lawmaker is weighing tough choices. He is torn between remaining in ODM; quitting the party to go it alone, aligning with retired President Uhuru Kenyatta's Jubilee Party, or joining forces with former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

There was an attempt by party officials to eject Mr Sifuna as ODM secretary-general last week, but the court halted the move.

The Senate Deputy Minority Whip challenged the decision in court, arguing that he was not given an adequate opportunity

to respond to the allegations that led to his removal.

Mr Sifuna secured temporary reprieve after the Political Parties Disputes Tribunal barred ODM from implementing the resolution to oust him. The tribunal suspended the decision passed by ODM's National Executive Committee on February 11, 2026 during a meeting in Mombasa.

The orders also prohibited the ODM and the Registrar of Political Parties from publishing the contested decision in the Kenya Gazette. An inter-partes hearing is scheduled for February 26.

Busia Woman Representative Catherine Omanyo had been appointed as the acting ODM secretary-general in place of Mr Sifuna.

The Nairobi senator's decision to go to court signals a possible intent to stay and fight from within the party that was founded by veteran opposition leader, Raila Odinga. Raila died last year in India while receiving treatment.

"I am in ODM and nobody can kick me out. I have no intention of leaving. You don't have to be



ODM Secretary-General Edwin Sifuna addresses supporters in Kitengela on Sunday. STANLEY NGOTHO | NATION

an official to be a member of the party," Mr Sifuna said last week.

However, the option to stay put depends on whether he can convince party officials, members and power brokers to disengage from the government of President William Ruto. The senator

has been consistent in his call for ODM to remain intact and chart its own path.

The second option would be to quit ODM, should the party formally cement a pre-election pact with President Ruto, a move Mr Sifuna has vehemently opposed.

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Age of the senator who is causing ripples on the Kenyan political scene as the country prepares for the General Election next year.

An outspoken critic of any endorsement of Dr Ruto's 2027 re-election bid, Mr Sifuna's stand resonates with a significant section of ODM supporters. Many see him as a principled dissenting voice that still carries ODM's pro-people ideology.

Perceived as speaking the language of Millennials and Gen Zs — which is projected to form the largest voting bloc in the next election — the first-term senator could test his mettle either as an independent, or join a new political party.

In August 2025, Mr Sifuna hinted at leaving ODM if it resolved to support Dr Ruto in the 2027 elections. Together with Saboti Member of Parliament Caleb Amisi, the leaders threatened to

lead a mass walkout from ODM. The broad-based government arrangement, which ODM is part of, did not sit well with them.

Speaking during a women empowerment event in Lukhome, Saboti Constituency, Trans Nzoia County, Mr Sifuna made his position clear.

"I stand by my views against the government. I want to remind those in ODM who are questioning me that I have the right to speak my mind. I will not support ODM's resolution to endorse William Ruto in 2027," he said.

Mr Sifuna is buoyed by the massive crowds that have attended the rallies of his faction in Busia and Kitengela.

The third option for Mr Sifuna is to join forces with Mr Kenyatta who recently announced the revival of the Azimio la Umoja coalition or, alternatively, work with the former president's Jubilee Party.

Mr Sifuna has been warming up to the United Opposition, fueling speculation over where his political loyalties lie. He has also been echoing Mr Kenyatta's political messaging.

The presence of Ms Pauline Njoroge, a Jubilee Party social media influencer, at Mr Sifuna's Kitengela rally has further heightened speculation.

The fourth option is for Mr Sifuna to join ranks with former DP Mr Gachagua.

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REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OF TURKANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NOTICE THE COUNTY FISCAL STRATEGY PAPER 2026

Pursuant to the provisions of Articles 10 and 201 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 and Section 117 (5) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, the County Government of Turkana hereby invites members of the public, civil society organizations, special interest groups and professionals to attend the public participation fora organized by the County Government to present their views and memoranda on the County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2026 as per the following date and venues.

DATE	SUB COUNTY	WARDS	VENUE	TIME
23 RD FEBRUARY, 2026	TURKANA NORTH	Lapur, Kaeris, Lake Zone, Nakalale, Kaikor/Kaaleng	Lokitaung – Sub County Administrator's Office	9:00 am
	TURKANA WEST	Kakuma, Letea, Kalobeyei, Lopur,	Kakuma – Kakuma Multipurpose Hall	9:00 am
	TURKANA CENTRAL	Lodwar Township, Kanamkemer, Kalokol, Kang'atoha, Kerio Delta	Lodwar – Lodwar Township Ward Administrator's Office	9:00 am
	LOIMA	Turkwel, Lobei/Kotaruk,	Lorugum – Citizen Resource Centre	9:00 am
	TURKANA SOUTH	Lokichar, Kalapata	Lokichar – Lokichar Ward Administrator's Office	9:00 am
	TURKANA EAST	Lokori/Kochodin, Katilia	Lokori – Sub County Administrator's Office	9:00 am
	SUGUTA	Kapedo/Napeitom	Suguta Sub County Offices, Kapedo Centre	9:00 am
	LOKICHOGGIO	Lokichoggio, Songot, Nanam	Lokichoggio – Lokichoggio Ward Administrator's Office	9:00 am
	KIBISH	Kibish	Kibish – Parish Hall	9:00 am
	LOKIRIAMA/LORENGIPPI	Lokiriama/Loreng'kippi, Loima	Lokiriama – Lokiriama Ward Administrator's Office	9:00 am
	AROO	Katilu, Lobokat, Kaputir	Kainuk – Lobokat Ward Administrator's Office	9:00 am

Written Memoranda may be forwarded, or hand delivered to Roseline Aite, County Executive Committee Member for Finance and Economic Planning P.O. BOX 11-30500, Lodwar and or emailed to: budget@turkana.go.ke to be received on or before **24th February, 2026**.

Copies of the draft County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2026 can be obtained from the county's official website: <https://www.turkana.go.ke>

ROSELINE AITE,
CECM, FINANCE & ECONOMIC PLANNING,
TURKANA COUNTY GOVERNMENT

LEADING RECRUITMENT FIRMS

A Special Feature

The Business Daily will publish the 2026 Leading Recruitment Firms special feature on February 27th, 2026. This annual supplement spotlights talent recruitment and advisory firms that organisations can partner with to attract, develop, and retain top talent.

The supplement targets an influential readership of CEOs, Managing Directors, HR Directors, Board Members, Investors, and Senior Policymakers. This makes it an ideal platform for talent recruitment and management companies to profile their services in and gain visibility where it matters most.

To be featured, please contact either of the following:
Karen: kmutahi@ke.nationmedia.com / +254 725 905 119
Judy: jmuhunyo@ke.nationmedia.com / +254 722 375 484



BDO



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
 Popo Road, Off Mombasa Road, P.O BOX 67839-00200, Nairobi, Kenya.
 Tel: 0724253398, 0735013046 | Email: irfo@nema.go.ke | Website: www.neraa.co.ke

RE: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED SUBATI GROUP COMMERCIAL PLANTATION FOREST ON PLOT L.R NO. MAKUENI/KITENG'EI SCHEME 'W/1593 AND MAKUENI/KITENG'EI SCHEME 'B'/1594 IN KITENGEI LOCATION, KIBWEZI SUB-COUNTY, MAKUENI COUNTY

Pursuant to Section 59 of the Environmental Management and Coordination Act CAP 387, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has received an Environmental Impact Assessment Study Report for the above proposed project.

The proponent, **Subati Group Limited**, proposes to put up a plantation forest comprising of sandalwood and rosewood hardwood tree species for commercial use. The trees will be cultivated on a designated area of approximately 142 Ha. on plot L.R. No. Makueni/Kiteng'ei Scheme 1371593 and Makueni/Kiteng'ei Scheme 'B'1594 in Kitengei Location, Kibwezi Sub-County, Makueni County.

The following are the anticipated impacts and proposed mitigation measures:-

Environmental and Social Management Plan for the Proposed Commercial Plantation Forest, In Kibwezi Sub-County, Makueni County

CONSTRUCTION PHASE ESMP	
IMPACTS	RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURES
Flora and fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake selective vegetation clearing that allows regeneration. Undertake routine monitoring/clearance of invasive species Give provisions for wildlife corridors and buffer zones
Water quality and demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install construction water storage facilities at the site Minimize disposal wastewater disposal at the project site
Noise and vibrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide PPE to workers and persons visiting the site Ensure the machineries do not exceed acceptable noise limits Inform local residents of activities that are likely to generate excessive noise Truck drivers to switch off engines during offloading materials avoid unnecessary hooting
Soil erosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow minimal vegetation clearing and disturbance at the site Undertake proper planning of site clearing of vegetation during project implementation.
Air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide personnel with Personal Protective Equipment & Clothing (PPE&C) such as dust masks. Palliate stockpiles of earth generated with water regularly to suppress evolution of particles;
Occupational health and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all equipment are inspected before use for appropriate safeguards. Ensure controlled working hours and that employees do not extend working hours unnecessarily Ensure appropriate road safety signage are strategically placed in and around the plantation.
Solid wastes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage wastes segregation at source into different wastes categories before disposal Contract licensed waste management firm for disposal of large quantities of solid wastes Domestic solid wastes to be temporarily stored in refuse bins before disposal by licensed contractor
Liquid wastes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide workers with appropriate and adequate sanitary facilities i.e. toilets. Wastewater from concrete/aggregates to be disposed into sedimentation pools & reuse clean water
OPERATION PHASE ESMP	
Increased pressure on water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate options for water efficient measures to reduce pressure on existing water resources. Undertake water treatment of potable standard for reuse in production processes Incorporate relevant and practical wastewater reuse options into the operational procedures Ensure compliance with Water Resources Management Rules, 2007 on groundwater abstraction. Undertake regular groundwater monitoring, especially of boreholes supplying water to the facility
Increased storm water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake regular surface water monitoring in the downstream Ensure storm water drainage system is in good functional condition Develop and implement contingencies for groundwater and downstream wetlands
Wastewater effluents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply best available technologies and adopt cleaner wastewater management techniques Install grease traps in the drains to remove solidified fat from the restaurant wastewater. Install a functional biological treatment (aerobic/anaerobic processes) for wastewater treatment Apply for waste discharge permits from NEMA Undertake annual environmental audits and submit findings to NEMA
Air emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and construct an efficient wastewater treatment system in accordance with best practices Regular maintenance septic tanks regularly Cover the solid wastes disposal area to control insects and scavenging birds
Spread of invasive species, insects, vermin and pests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear/remove invasive plant species immediately they are sighted Undertake prudent and efficient solid/liquid waste management to keep away scavenging birds.
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a noise management plan
Socio-economics, community health and amenity impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place warning signs warning people of potential dangers. The perimeter fence must be constructed in a manner that prevents the movement of livestock in and out of the plantation. Undertake annual environmental audits and submit reports to NEMA
Occupational health and safety hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register the workplace with Director, Directorate of Occupational Health and Safety (DOHS). Provide PPE to staff and personnel at the site. Ensure compliance with Occupational Safety & Health Act (Part XI) regulations on construction activities. Undertake regular occupational health and safety audits and submit reports to DOHS Provide first aid kit at the facility
Spread of invasive species, insects, vermin and pests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear/remove invasive plant species immediately they are sighted Undertake prudent and efficient solid/liquid waste management to keep away scavenging birds.
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a noise management plan
Socio-economics, community health and amenity impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place warning signs warning people of potential dangers. The perimeter fence must be constructed in a manner that prevents the movement of livestock in and out of the plantation. Undertake annual environmental audits and submit reports to NEMA
Occupational health and safety hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register the workplace with Director, Directorate of Occupational Health and Safety (DOHS). Provide PPE to staff and personnel at the site. Ensure compliance with Occupational Safety & Health Act (Part XI) regulations on construction activities. Undertake regular occupational health and safety audits and submit reports to DOHS Provide first aid kit at the facility
DECOMMISSION PHASE ESMP	
Noise pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule noisy activities during the day time period; Use silencers on machines where possible. Ensure machinery is well maintained to reduce noise emitted.
Air/dust pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice dust management techniques, including watering down dust; Set up dust barriers/ screens at strategic locations Provide and enforce the appropriate use of PPE against dust for staff
Liquid wastes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adhere to EMCA 2006 water quality regulations. Adhere to WRMA 2007 guidelines for effluent discharge into surface water resources. Undertake proper demolition of wastewater structures to prevent ground water pollution by content
Solid wastes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake disposal of solid waste in compliance with EMCA 2006 waste management regulations; Segregate wastes to encourage reuse and recycling Contracted NEMA licensed waste collector to collect and dispose wastes
Social Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide earlier notice to all affected parties concerning the development. Dismissal procedures should be compliant with the Employment Act, 2007.

A full report of the proposed project is available for inspection during working hour:

1. Director General
 National Environment and Management Authority (NEMA),
 Popo Road, off Mombasa Road,
 P.O. Box 67839-00200,
NAIROBI.

2. County
 Director of Environment,
MAKUENI COUNTY.

A copy of the EIA report can be downloaded at www.rtema.go.ke

NEMA invites members of the public to submit oral or written comments within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this notice to the Director General, NEMA to assist the Authority in the decision-making process for this project. Kindly quote ref. No. **NEMA/ENVIS/SR/00114**

Comments can also be e-mailed to info@nema.go.ke

Dr. MAMO B MAMO EBS,
DIRECTOR GENERAL

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ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

		2025	2024
	Notes	Kshs	Kshs
Revenue			
Interest- Loans granted to Members	2	1,967,348,114	1,758,746,513
Interest Income -FOSA	3	791,369,203	661,680,272
Total Interest Income		2,758,717,317	2,420,426,785
Interest Expense-Member deposits	5	(1,183,178,573)	(1,147,660,849)
Interest on Fixed & other deposits	6	(6,976,287)	(5,280,119)
Net Interest Income		1,575,538,745	1,267,485,817
Other Interest Income	3	44,719,311	33,960,339
Other Operating Income	4	174,732,341	156,977,231
		1,794,990,397	1,458,423,388
Expenditure			
Financial expenses	8	134,831,117	95,212,073
Staff Expenses	7	282,068,267	246,158,962
Administrative expenses	11	453,442,884	327,338,290
Governance Expenses-Member related	9	164,041,296	101,186,219
Depreciation & Amortisation	12	16,615,283	13,706,991
Marketing & Promotion Expenses	10	46,375,311	52,588,682
Total Operating Expenses		1,097,374,159	836,191,217
Net Operating Surplus Before Tax		697,616,238	622,232,171
Income Tax Expense	29	(32,917,748)	(28,640,636)
Donations & Subscriptions	11	(8,119,891)	(5,851,102)
Net surplus for the year after tax		656,578,600	587,740,433
Gain in Revaluation		40,767,335	-
Transfer to Statutory Reserve		(131,315,720)	(117,548,087)
Retained surplus for the year		566,030,215	470,192,347

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

	2025	2025	2024
	Notes	Kshs.	Kshs.
ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	16/17(a)	265,038,283	207,708,742
Prepayments & Other Receivables	18(a)	685,058,903	616,159,270
Loans & Advances to Members	19	16,188,247,072	14,035,681,726
Income Tax Asset	29	72,070,379	174,459,533
Financial Assets	23	865,094,749	902,684,815
Investment In Properties	24	257,169,566	245,782,143
Property, Plant and Equipment	15	72,207,354	60,726,009
TOTAL ASSETS		18,404,886,306	16,243,202,238
LIABILITIES			
Member's deposits	25	12,544,767,846	11,195,415,694
Retirement Benefits Fund	28	14,192,567	14,192,567
Payables & Accruals	26	382,366,744	314,682,363
Bank Overdraft	17(b)	121,383,296	-
Dividends & Interest payable	27	1,384,873,803	1,362,400,511
TOTAL LIABILITIES		14,447,584,257	12,886,691,135
EQUITY			
Share Capital	30	931,765,906	793,053,352
Reserves	32	3,025,536,144	2,563,457,751
TOTAL EQUITY		3,957,302,050	3,356,511,103
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		18,404,886,306	16,243,202,238



Approved by the board of Directors and Management on 10th Feb 2026. and signed on its behalf by:

Timothy Machana **Vice Chairman**
 James G Omwocha **Treasurer**
 Evans Masira **Hon. Secretary**
 Jared Moenga Makori **Chief Executive Officer**
 Winfridah Kwamboka **Chief Finance Officer**
 ICPAK No.17873

Gusii Mwalimu D.T. Sacco Ltd, P.O. Box 1335 -40200, KISII.

National News

Opposition, IEBC clash over voter data ahead of polls

BY MOSES NYAMORI

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) and opposition parties have clashed over allegations of attempts to manipulate Kenya's voters' register ahead of the 2027 General Election.

On Sunday, the Democratic Party (DP) led by Justin Muturi (right) accused the IEBC of secretly coordinating with the Office of the President on voter registration data. In a statement, Mr Muturi alleged that acting IEBC boss Moses Sunkuli had met officials from the National Registration Bureau to discuss integrating voter data systems, including collaborations with private vendors such as Smartmatic.

He warned that the personal data of millions of Kenyans should not be exploited for political purposes and must be protected in strict compliance with the Constitution and the Data Protection Act. Mr Muturi demanded immediate public disclosure of any existing Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) or data-sharing frameworks between the IEBC and the presidency. He also called for the commission to disengage from any joint taskforces that could compromise its independence.

The IEBC rejected the allegations, describing its engagements as standard collaboration with relevant government agencies that are lawful custodians of citizen data.

IEBC Chairperson Erastus Ethekeon said the commission works with the National Registration Bureau to verify national identity card details and voter eligibility, as well as to confirm death records for the lawful removal of deceased persons from the voters' roll.

The commission also engages the Directorate of Immigration Services to verify passport details, another statutory document recognised for voter registration.

"Public agencies routinely enter into controlled data-sharing arrangements with population registration authorities for lawful service delivery, verification, and integrity purposes. Similarly, regulated private institutions such as banks, insurance firms, and telecommunication companies interface with population databases strictly for identity verification, compliance, and fraud prevention," Mr Ethekeon said.

He emphasised that the voters' register remains under the exclusive custody and control of the IEBC and that all personal data is safeguarded in strict compliance with the Constitution, the Elections Act, 2011, the Elections Regulations, 2012, and the Da-



CONTROVERSY

130m

The amount in Kenyan shillings linked to a US foreign bribery case involving Smartmatic, highlighting concerns regarding technology ahead of the 2027 General Election.

ta Protection Act, 2019. The commission urged political actors to avoid uncorroborated, inflammatory statements that undermine both its independence and the electoral process.

The opposition has outlined several conditions they want addressed before they can trust the IEBC to conduct free, fair, and verifiable elections. Chief among these is the removal of Smartmatic, the technology company used in the 2022 polls.

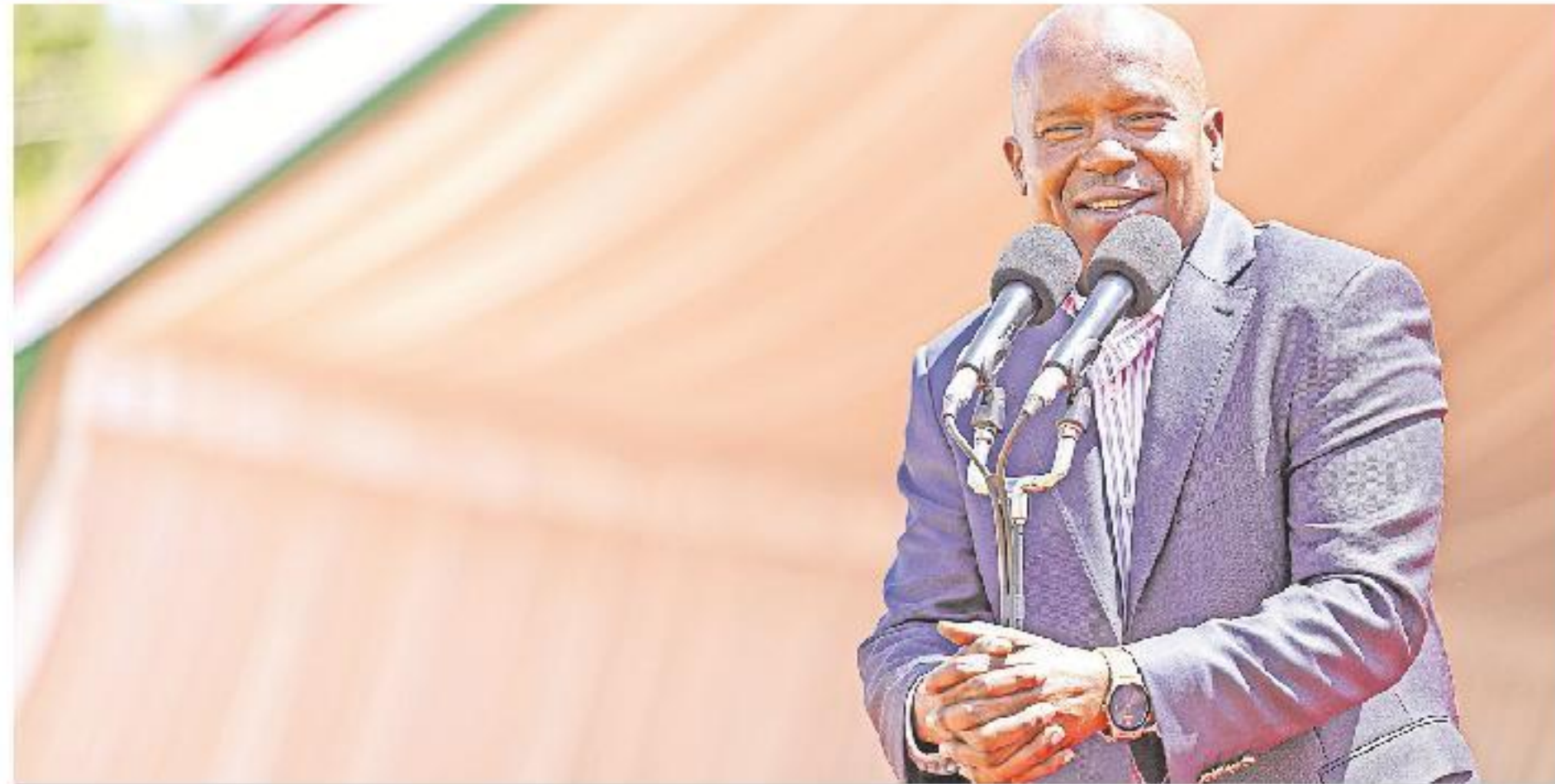
Smartmatic has faced international scrutiny in recent years, including allegations of providing a luxury home to Venezuela's election chief in 2017. In October last year, the United States Justice Department charged the company with foreign bribery, linked to an alleged Sh130 million payment to a Philippine election official to secure contracts for the country's 2016 elections. The indictment did not allege voter fraud or election rigging.

The standoff mirrors recurring tensions in Kenya's electoral history. Opposition parties have repeatedly questioned the IEBC's neutrality, technology choices, and leadership, echoing disputes seen in the 2013, 2017, and 2022 polls.

During a recent Nairobi meeting with IEBC commissioners, opposition leaders cited a credibility crisis threatening the 2027 elections. They accused the commission of opaque procurement practices, weak enforcement against electoral violence, and of operating under a perception of political capture.

Wiper Party leader emphasised the erosion of public confidence, saying: "The perception out there is that this is a William Ruto Commission. We gave them the opportunity to prove us wrong, not for us, but for the whole country."

Politics His supporters see powerful forces moving pieces behind the scenes



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki addresses congregants during the Maemba Inter-denominational Thanksgiving Service in Sigowet Soin Constituency, Kericho County. PHOTO | DPCS

Kindiki at a crossroads amid Ruto 2027 running mate row

His allies have vowed to protect the DP seat at all costs; analysts warn this may weaken his position

BY MWANGI MUIRURI AND DAVID MUCHUI

Allies of Deputy President Kithure Kindiki in the Mt Kenya region say the growing jostling for his position ahead of the 2027 General Election signals what they describe as a calculated political trap.

They believe powerful interests are manoeuvring behind the scenes to test the region's loyalty to President William Ruto and potentially reshape the political equation ahead of his re-election bid.

Analysts say the heightened focus on Prof Kindiki's position is unlikely to be coincidental. With a broad-based administration that has drawn in allies of Raila Odinga and former president Uhuru Kenyatta, President Ruto may be recalibrating his strategy to consolidate or reconfigure the coalition that delivered his 2022 victory.

Some observers argue that sustained speculation over the running mate position could be intended to ensure that only the most politically dependable and electorally valuable candidate remains in place. Prof Kindiki's political standing has faced scrutiny since the controversial impeachment of his predecessor, Rigathi Gachagua, in 2024. The ouster, widely criticised by sections of Mt Kenya leaders, triggered disquiet across the region and exposed underlying political tensions.

Although Prof Kindiki assumed office, his elevation followed legal challenges from Mr Gachagua's allies, leaving lingering questions about the political implications of the transition and the stability of the deputy presidency within evolving coalition dynamics.

However, Prof Kindiki has dismissed suggestions that the Or-

ange Democratic Movement (ODM) could secure the position, maintaining that he remains firmly in office and focused on supporting the President's development agenda. Responding to remarks attributed to ODM leaders indicating interest in the deputy presidency, Prof Kindiki said he would not relinquish the position and urged his supporters to remain calm.

Speaking at Kariene in Meru County on Sunday, Prof Kindiki said political statements by rivals would not distract him from his responsibilities. "I understand ODM's demands are causing jitters in Meru. I am the Deputy President and I am not going anywhere. In politics, I am no pushover and cannot be intimidated. There is no cause for alarm; the demands are just hot air," he said.

He said his elevation reflected the overwhelming support President Ruto and the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) received in the Mt Kenya region during the last election. Describing himself as an experienced political strategist, Prof Kindiki said he understood the timing and intent behind political messaging and would prioritise service delivery over politi-

cal distractions. "I have been in politics long enough to know when to speak, when to remain silent and when to work," he said, criticising rivals he accused of "talking aimlessly... and having little to show for their time in authority."

Prof Kindiki said Meru County delivered President Ruto the fourth-highest number of votes in the 2022 election, underscoring the region's political significance within the ruling coalition.

"We are seasoned politicians and should not be taken for granted. Having been in politics for long, I know when to work and when to engage politically. We will prove ourselves by delivering development across the country," he said.

The government, he noted, was implementing development projects aimed at strengthening the economy and improving infrastructure, adding that tangible progress would ultimately define the administration's political standing. Prof Kindiki spoke after attending the induction of Methodist Church bishop Doreen Mwathe.

He was accompanied by Meru Governor Isaac Mutuma and MPs Moses Kirima (Imenti Central), Mpuru Aburi (Tigania East), Julius Taitumu (Igembe North) and Dorothy Muthoni (Nominated), who reaffirmed their support for his leadership.

Mr Mutuma said Mt Kenya East leaders would rally colleagues to defend the region's stake in government and protect the deputy presidency from external pressure.

"Let it be known that the deputy president's seat is not vacant. Mt Kenya East leaders will defend its place in this government," he said.

Leaders allied to President Ruto and Prof Kindiki have also declared the deputy presidency non-negotiable in any coalition

I am the Deputy President and I am not going anywhere. In politics, I am no pushover and cannot be intimidated. There is no cause for alarm; the demands are just hot air.

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki



talks between UDA and ODM. However, ODM leaders have openly expressed interest in expanding their influence within the broad-based administration, raising concern among some Mt Kenya leaders that Prof Kindiki's position could become subject to political bargaining. Some allies have warned that sidelining him could weaken the region's influence and affect its political alignment ahead of the next election.

Political scientist Festus Wangwe said President Ruto ultimately has the most at stake in ensuring a strong and dependable running mate. "I would not be surprised if the President is aware of these manoeuvres. He risks being disadvantaged if he goes into the 2027 contest with a weakened deputy," Mr Wangwe said.

Laikipia East MP Mwangi Kiunjuri said the President retains the constitutional prerogative to choose his running mate, but emphasised the need for Mt Kenya leaders to remain vigilant.

"The President has the authority to decide who deputises him in 2027. However, as Mt Kenya leaders, we must safeguard Prof Kindiki's position beyond 2027," he said.

Mr Kiunjuri said the growing interest in the deputy presidency reflected its strategic importance within Kenya's political structure.

"Prof Kindiki's position has attracted interest from many quarters. It is up to Mt Kenya leaders to ensure it remains in the region," he said. Political scientist John Okumu cautioned that threats by some leaders to withdraw support if Prof Kindiki is dropped could weaken his bargaining position rather than strengthen it.

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 **6 MARCH**
2026

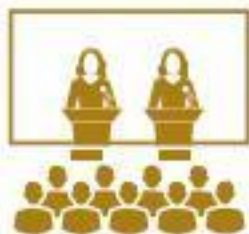
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National News

Disruption Airlines operating from Nairobi's JKIA warn passengers of delayed or rescheduled flights

Passengers stranded as aviation workers strike

Union accuses KCAA of disregarding the welfare of workers at airports

BY DANIEL OGETTA

Many passengers were yesterday left stranded after aviation workers downed their tools, disrupting services at major airports across the country.

The industrial action led to delays and rescheduling of flights in and out of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) and other key aviation facilities nationwide.

The Kenya Aviation Workers Union (Kawu) began its strike at 6am, causing widespread operational disruptions that affected both passengers and airlines.

"We wish to inform the country and travellers using JKIA and all other airports that we have commenced our industrial action,"



Security officers on patrol at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi yesterday as a strike by workers caused flight disruptions. PHOTO | REUTERS

Kawu Secretary-General Moses Ndiema said. "To that effect, we want to advise those planning to travel through JKIA or to any parts of our country by air that those services will not be provided."

He added that there was already a significant backlog, with aircraft hardly departing from the affected airports.

The strike left scores of passengers waiting for long hours at both departure and arrival terminals.

"We have been stranded at the Kisumu Airport for hours since morning," Kakamega Senator Boni Khalwale posted on X. "Been forced to hit the road after many hours at the airport, waiting in vain."

Another passenger, Ms Carol Musyoka, lamented the chaos at JKIA.

"Currently seated at Terminal 1D departure lounge. At least I have a seat. Many people are standing or sitting on the floor. No aircraft leaving," she posted.

"The strike has been impactful in terms of destabilising passenger travel. Now hoping that some-

one, somewhere is negotiating something," she added.

Another traveller complained of sitting on a plane for hours as the pilot awaited air traffic clearance.

"There is more to this delay... The inconvenience. People have been massively inconvenienced," the passenger wrote.

The industrial action disrupted carriers operating from JKIA, one of the region's busiest aviation hubs, with airlines warning passengers of delays and possible schedule changes.

Uganda Airlines, one of the affected carriers, notified its passengers of "air traffic control difficulties at JKIA, arising from safety contingency measures" implemented by the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA).

"Please be aware that several inbound and outbound flights may experience delays or rescheduling," the airline said in a statement.

Kenya Airways also issued an advisory, warning travellers to expect possible flight adjustments.

"We are currently experiencing air traffic control operational delays at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), affecting certain departures and arrivals," read the statement.

"Passengers are advised to expect possible schedule adjustments, including delays. We sincerely regret the inconvenience and are working closely with the

2015

Year when last collective bargaining agreement lapsed according to the Kenya Aviation Workers Union

relevant aviation authorities and airport stakeholders to minimise disruption and maintain safe operations," it added.

The Kenya Airports Authority, while acknowledging the disruption, said "contingency plans have been activated" and advised passengers to contact their respective airlines for updates.

The aviation workers' union had last week issued a seven-day strike notice to KCAA, warning that failure to address their grievances would result in industrial action. Among the union's key demands is the employment of workers on permanent and pensionable terms.

The union said the decision to strike was "an honest act of last resort" after what it described as KCAA's insensitivity towards employee issues and lack of goodwill in resolving disputes that have remained outstanding for more than a decade.

Kawu noted that the last collective bargaining agreement lapsed in 2015 and efforts to negotiate and conclude a new one have been futile.

THE Development ROUNDTABLE

A National Conference on the Future of Development and NGO Funding in Kenya

Theme: Reimagining the future of development financing in Kenya

26th - 27th February 2026

Trademark Hotel, Nairobi

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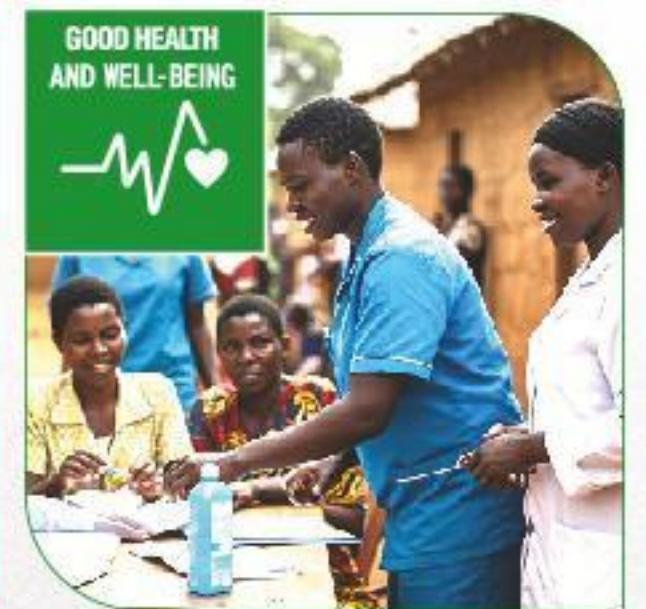
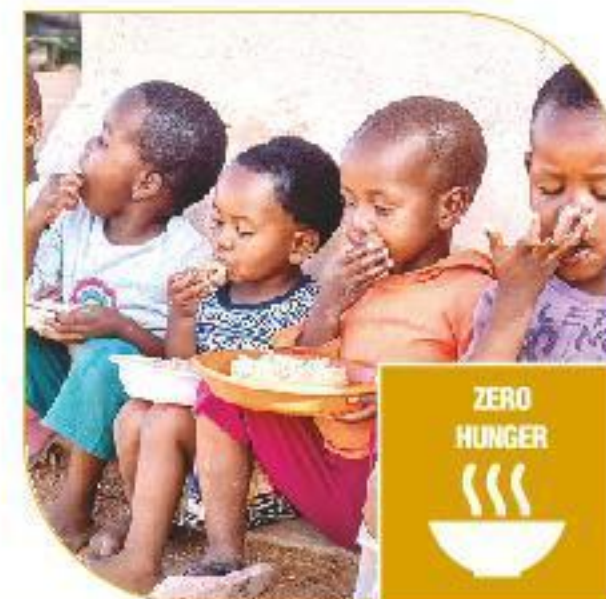
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It's a harsh world Prices of livestock have fallen drastically. A goat now goes for Sh5,000, down from Sh13,000

'We have not cooked any food this year'

An elderly woman from Kapua, Turkana says her family now relies on palm fruits

BY SAMMY LUTTA

Turkana County is facing one of its worst droughts in recent memory. Temperatures across the region have soared to over 41°C and seasonal rivers that once provided water are now dry and sandy.

The drought is not just a climate crisis, but a humanitarian emergency threatening the very survival of people and livestock.

In most villages, the elderly and children — who are unable to migrate like herders — sit under palm trees near dry riverbeds as they wait for fruits to fall before returning home at sunset.

At Kapua village, one of the most remote parts of Turkana Central Sub-County, the scorching heat is punishing by noon.

Homesteads that were once alive with activity, are now silent. Most movement is at a local primary school where a feeding programme is underway.

The place has a handful of small shops nearby and goats roaming through the thorny dry shrubs.

Along the vast, sand-choked Kosiayi seasonal riverbed, which is more than 100 metres wide but now bone dry, the elderly sit beneath palm trees together with young children.

This is something they do daily. They sit — the young and old — in silence. Endurance has become their second nature.

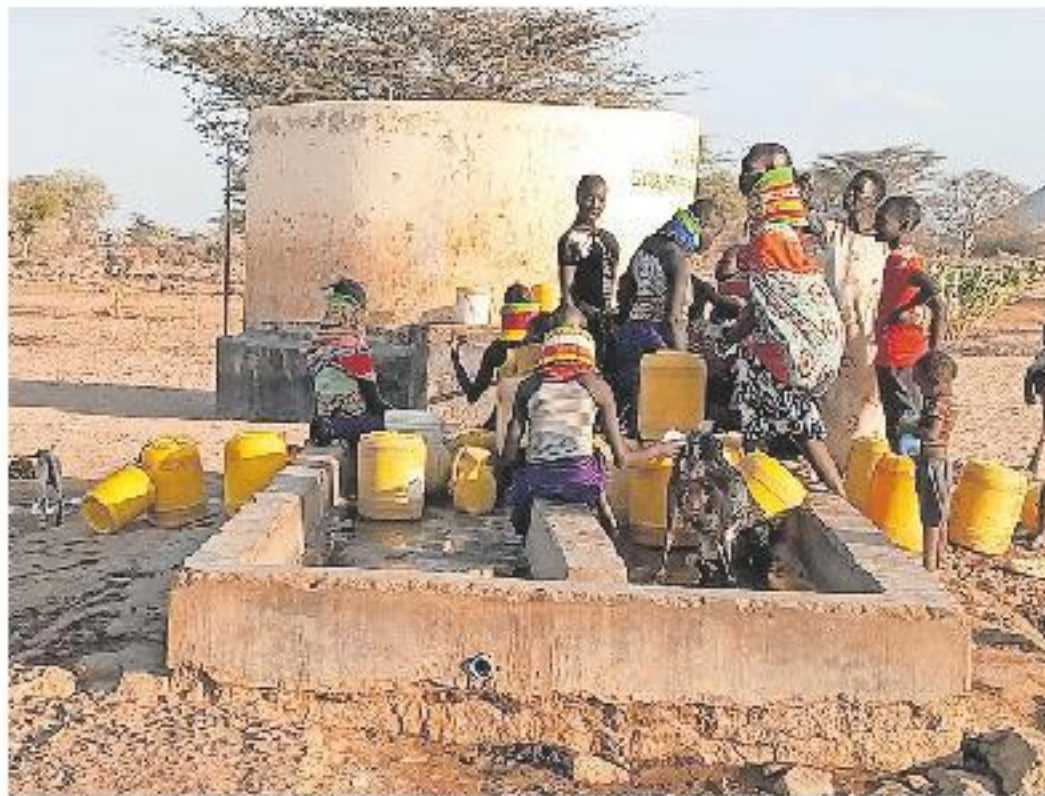
For Mr Ekunyuk Locham, 61, and his wife, Apur Ewoi, 68, survival has been narrowed down to this strip of sand.

"I have not cooked for my husband this year. We don't have food," Ms Ewoi said.

Each morning, the two and their granddaughter leave their homestead to go and sit under a palm tree. After sunset, they return home with fruits, which soak overnight. They eat the softened pulp and give some of it to their goats.

"We only return home after sunset when we get something for our stomachs. Occasionally, we find water for ourselves and food for our four goats," Mr Locham said.

He once owned more than 100



Locals fetch water at Lopii village in Turkana East Sub-County. SAMMY LUTTA | NATION

goats and sheep. However, now only four have remained due to the prolonged drought. Some animals died in the fields, others collapsed on the 70-kilometre journey to Lodwar market. Some were killed by wild animals.

"These trees (palm trees) used to give us materials for thatching our houses and weaving mats. Now we rely on them for shade, food and pasture," Mr Locham said.

The situation is the same across all the 11 sub-counties of Turkana. From Turkana North to Loima and Turkana East, traditional water sources have dried up, and pasture has disappeared, leaving livestock weak and vulnerable.

Herders have been forced to migrate hundreds of kilometres toward Ethiopia and Uganda in search of water and pasture for their animals.

Water scarcity is severe. The

These trees (palm trees) used to give us materials for thatching our houses and weaving mats. Now we rely on them for shade, food and pasture

Resident Ekunyuk Locham



few boreholes are overcrowded, while traditional shallow wells provide inadequate and often unsafe water.

Livestock markets — once the backbone of the pastoral economy — are flooded with emaciated goats and sheep. The prices of animals have fallen by up to 60 per cent. A goat that previously sold for Sh13,000 now struggles to fetch Sh5,000. Many herders cannot afford food for their weakened animals. Some livestock dies before reaching markets.

Women and children walk for hours daily to fetch water. Some

times risking their lives to fetch water in unstable wells. Some children as young as 10 struggle to dig shallow wells in a bid to get water.

The elderly, the sick and the disabled are facing extreme hardship. Many of them survive on soaked palm fruits and credit from local shops. Food aid has reached some communities, but the supply is inconsistent.

At Nakaalei village, where President William Ruto launched a relief food distribution drive and livestock offtake programme in November 2022, elderly residents have become beggars.

Residents say that at least 100 elderly people, who have been abandoned, the sick, or those living with disabilities, require urgent support. When well-wishers visit the area, the frail are given first priority.

Ms Abel Lokala Mekede, a widow, 76, recalls receiving maize, beans and free meat through the Kenya Red Cross during the last visit in 2022.

"I appeal to the government to come to our aid again. I am starving," she said.

slutta@ke.nationmedia.com



PRO-AM TOURNAMENT DRAW

Wednesday, 18th February 2026

Karen Country Club

Match	Tee	TIME	Holes 1-9	Holes 10-18	TEAM NAME / SPONSOR	AMATEUR 1	Hcp	AMATEUR 2	Hcp2	AMATEUR 3	Hcp3
1	1	7:10	EPE, Francis	SCRIVENER, Jason	KGF/GOK	Philip Ochola	16.1	Owino Ayodo	11.3	Sen. Zaituni Mohammed	16.1
2	1	7:21	WANGAI, CJ	SÖDERBERG, Sebastian	EABL	Kezzai Kihara	11.9	Hawkins Musili	17.6	Jenn Muthoni	22.7
3	1	7:32	MORY, Felix	SCHNEIDER, Marcel	KOGL	Patrick Obathi	19.3	Dick Omondi	17.2	Francis Okwara	16.4
4	1	7:43	GARCIA, Sebastian	MANASSERO, Matteo	Absa Kenya	Emmanuel Mwaka	12.4	Max Veglio	14.1	David Wandera	21.0
5	1	7:54	NJOROGE, Samuel	SYME, Connor	EABL	Terra Saidmu	4.2	Louise Gitau	3.5	Amos Kimunya	8.4
6	1	8:05	STEINLECHNER, Maximilian	LAWRENCE, Thriston	KGU	Weldon Mutai	23.2	Liban Roba	4.9	Kimeli Mutai	3.6
7	1	8:16	GULLAMOUNDEGU, Othman	VAN DRIEL, Darius	EABL	Irene Maina	19.9	Alex Mwangi	16.4	Eunice Koome	11.7
8	1	8:27	OTAEGU, Adrian	AYORA, Angel	KGF	Jane Babasa Nzibo	24.7	Greg Gathumbi	8.1	Eric Nyongesa	6.7
9	1	8:38	WINTHER, Jeff	SENIOR, Jack	GOK	Njeri Wakahiu	27.5	Nthenya Virginia	18.5	Neddie Akello	25.8
10	1	8:49	FITZPATRICK, Alex	JAMESON, Scott	Absa Kenya	Patricia Ithau	20.2	Mke Mutiga	16.6	Muchemi Wambugu	15.5
11	1	9:00	DEL REY, Alejandro	GUMBERG, Jordan	Sportpesa/KOGL	Alan Mctavish	21.0	Aziz Mussaji	5.8	KOGL	
Match	Tee	Time	Professional (10-18)	Professional (1-9)	Team Name / Sponsor	Amateur	Hcp	Amateur	Hcp	Amateur	Hcp
12	10	7:10	NSAZUWERA, Celestin	DEAN, Joe	GOK	Lawrence Ochiambo	10.6	Arch. Philip Kungu	18.9	Hon. Eunice Kilonzo	13.1
13	10	7:21	MUDANYI, Edwin	VIDAL, QUIM	KGU/Wilken	Sam Kangau	13.5	Robert Kamwara	24.0	Raphael Lakoloi	14.4
14	10	7:32	WALKER, Euan	LAPORTA, Francesco	Absa Kenya	Darwin Angudri	15.8	Alex Wandera	20.2	Kenneth Tumusime	21.5
15	10	7:43	MAZZOLI, Stefano	FERGUSON, Ewen	GOK	Carol Karanja	22.7	Kate Munira	16.7	David Onyorka	13.5
16	10	7:54	OLESEN, Jacob Skov	LAGERGRÉN, Joakim	European Tour	Macharia Macharia	16.7	Gaib Virani	11.5	Andy Watt	23.0
17	10	8:05	DUPLESSIS, Hennie	HILL, Calum	Safaricom/Nation	Ryan Ndegwa	7.0	Linus Gitahi	16.0	Argwings Koyoson	12.4
18	10	8:16	SNOW, Greg	CAMPILLO, Jorge	KOGL/GOK	Enid Muriuki	34.4	James Ondigo	11.8	Priscilla Karobia	20.0
19	10	8:27	DING, Wenyi	RITCHIE, JC	GOK	Muema Mwindi	14.9	Hon. Fredikana	15.0	Kavit Bhakoo	0.2
20	10	8:38	APHIBARNRAT, Kiradech	ROZNER, Antoine	KOGL/Nation	Michael Kiruti	14.7	David Karuri	16.2	Rowland Migock	27.5
21	10	8:49	GRRBACH, Joel	VALLANT, Tom	Kibo/KOGL	Nasoor Verjee	11.3	KOGL			
22	10	9:00	CLEMENTS, Todd	LAW, David	Absa Kenya	Jan Mohamed		Raymond Nyamweya	6.3	Michael Mugesu	8.5
Match	Tee	Time	Professional (1-9)	Professional (10-18)	Team Name / Sponsor	Amateur	Hcp	Amateur	Hcp	Amateur	Hcp
1	1	12:00	LOMBARD, Zander	LANGASQUE, Roman	KOGL/KGU	Collins Ojumbo	15.5	Faith Kanaga	18.0	Brian Akun	12.8
2	1	12:11	LARRAZÁBAL, Pablo	LOMBARD, Zander	GOK	Joe Sang	4.9	Hon. Moses Cheboi	13.4	Hon. Caleb Kosittany	10.0
3	1	12:22	JORDAN, Matthew	SCHMIDT, Ben	ORGT/Avenue/Karen	Kimani Njane	13.8	Jay Michoma	14.7	Anthony Munene	4.8
4	1	12:33	LUITEN, Joost	DANT ORP, Jens	Sportpesa	Allan Muigai	14.9	Jason Gibson	8.6	Ronald Meru	15.0
5	1	12:44	SCHOTT, Freddy	KINHULT, Marcus	EABL	Jane Karuku	11.1	Tom Gitogo	13.9	Esther Chumo	3.8
6	1	12:55	LACROIX, Frederic	VAN TONDER, Daniel	EABL	Ndegwa Kibuthu	21.8	Collins Injera	13.0	Caroline Ngigi	10.1
7	1	13:06	SIEM, Marcel	HARDING, Justin	DPWT	Mark Williams	10.0	Pierre Viljoen	15.0	Willy Kimani	11.8
8	1	13:17	KRUYSWIJK, Jacques	KIBUGU, Njoroge	Absa Kenya	Mohamed Nyaoga	17.2	Kamau Thugge	9.0	Yusuf Osmari	18.9
9	1	13:28	MICHELUZZI, David	BERRY, Joshua	KGU	Chris Kinuthia	16.1	Jonathan Merucha	9.5	Peter Mwaura	10.4
10	1	13:39	BRADBURY, Dan	NDUVA, Daniel	GOK	Sen. John Methu	17.4	Hon. John Kiragu	6.1	Kennedy Monari	10.5
11	1	13:50	RAVETTO, David	KIBUGU, Mutahi	KGF	Betty Mutua	16.3	Sammy Kemere	10.4	Sarah Hoare	18.3
Match	Tee	Time	Professional (10-18)	Professional (1-9)	Team Name / Sponsor	Amateur	Hcp	Amateur	Hcp	Amateur	Hcp
12	10	12:00	STERNE, Richard	LINDBERG, Mikael	Absa Kenya	Josephine Njoroge	16.4	Duncan Sifunah	6.3	Steve Gitau	15.6
13	10	12:11	PARATORE, Renato	JOHNSTON, Ryggs	GOK	Hon. Fred Muteti	16.0	Hon. Charles Keter	5.9	Hon. Morgan Chirchir	14.5
14	10	12:22	WESBERGER, Bernd	ELVIRA, Manuel	GOK	Mary Mungai	27.2	Hon. Mary Maingi	15.0	Hon. Muryoro Kamau	16.2
15	10	12:33	NORRIS, Shaun	JARVIS, Casey	KLUG	Rosemary M'kok	16.4	Patricia Wangongu	23.1	Rita Waruingu	28.9
16	10	12:44	CELLI, Filippo	MORRISON, James	Absa Uganda	Isaac Mareira	8.5	Hellen Lunkuse	23.4	Joshua Odong	17.1
17	10	12:55	NORGAARD, Niklas	CANTERO, Ivan	EABL	Fred Karuki	7.7	Andrew Ndolo	15.4	Andrew Waititu	16.4
18	10	13:06	MIGLIUZZI, Guido	HDALGO, Angel	DPWT	Abhisej Kunjupilla	12.8	Austin Wasonga	36.0	Steve Maina	11.5
19	10	13:17	DEBINSON THOMPSON, Brandt	WAKHJ, David	KOGL/KQ	Tabitha Kibara	26.2	Habil Waswari	9.7	Captain Paul Njoroge	17.5
20	10	13:28	HOSHINO, Rikuya	YOUNG, Daniel	KGU/KOGL	Bob Ngugi	9.9	Peter Mungai	10.5	Regina Gachora	12.7
21	10	13:39	LEWKE, Niklas	ANYONYI, Dennis	Kibo/Avenue/Karen	Sunny Thethy	15.5	Paul Ngugi	3.4	Rebecca Opoti	19.0
22	10	13:50	GOUVIA, Ricardo	MADOYA, Jestas	Absa Kenya	Renaldo D'Souza	12.1	James Kamau	22.9	Marion Mwangi	26.2

National Intelligence and Research University (NIRU)

Inaugural Graduation 2026



President William Ruto (left) and the Chairman Board of Trustees National Intelligence and Research University (NIRU) Mr. Noordin Haji during the award of a charter to the NIRU. Looking on is NIRU's Vice Chancellor Dr. James Kibon.

Congratulatory Message From The Vice-Chancellor



Vice Chancellor National Intelligence and Research University (NIRU) Dr. James K. Kibon.

Congratulatory message from the Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Today, as we celebrate this inaugural graduating class, we also mark the fulfilment of a bold national and continental vision. The National Intelligence and Research University (NIRU) was founded as a specialised institution in response to an evolving and increasingly complex security landscape, one characterised by emerging risks that demand a new calibre of intelligence professionalism. In response, NIRU was conceived to professionalise intelligence education and strengthen strategic research in service of national and regional security priorities.

As the first specialised intelligence and research university of its kind in Africa, NIRU exists to bridge the gap between operational practice and strategic foresight, and to cultivate professionals capable of supporting sound decision-making in an interconnected and dynamic security environment. This mission aligns with the broader national transformation agenda and the imperative to build resilient institutions anchored in research, innovation, and strategic thinking.

Beyond those who pass through its lecture halls, the work of this University serves the wider public. Stronger intelligence training and research capacity translates into more informed security decisions, better anticipation of emerging threats, stronger protection of economic and digital systems, and more effective regional cooperation. In practical terms, this contributes to safer communities, more resilient institutions, and greater stability for citizens, businesses, and society at large.

To the inaugural graduating cohort, you are the first custodians of this institution's reputation beyond its walls. How you apply your training will shape trust in in-



To the inaugural graduating cohort, you are the first custodians of this institution's reputation beyond its walls. How you apply your training will shape trust in intelligence institutions and influence decisions that affect national and regional stability at a time when disciplined analysis, ethical leadership, and strategic foresight matter more than ever.

telligence institutions and influence decisions that affect national and regional stability at a time when disciplined analysis, ethical leadership, and strategic foresight matter more than ever.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I congratulate you on this significant achievement and wish you every success in your service ahead.

CONGRATULATIONS NIRU!

The National Research Fund (NRF) congratulates the National Intelligence and Research University (NIRU) on its inaugural graduation of the Master of Arts in Strategic Intelligence Studies, Class of 2024.

As the national agency mandated to mobilise, allocate and manage resources for research, innovation and knowledge generation, NRF commends NIRU for its contribution to advancing strategic intelligence, research excellence and evidence based decision making in support of national development and security.

This relation affirms our commitment to leveraging research and innovation to advance the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda and build skills for inclusive growth.

National Research Fund
NACOSTI Plaza, 3rd Floor, Upper Kabete,
P. O. Box 25035 - 00100
NAIROBI
info@nrf.go.ke

Kenya National Research Fund

For details visit us on Facebook and

I extend my congratulations to the graduating class of the National Intelligence and Research University on the successful completion of your Master's programmes. This inaugural graduation marks a significant achievement for both the graduates and the University. You joined this Institution at a formative stage and have contributed, through your academic commitment and professionalism, to shaping its academic culture and standards. As the first cohort of graduates since when NIRU attained its Charter, you set the foundation upon which the University's future reputation and legacy will be built. The programmes you have completed were designed to address contemporary intelligence and security challenges, with emphasis on analytical rigor, strategic thinking, ethical conduct, and effective communication.

These competencies are central to supporting decisionmakers and advancing sound policy and operational outcomes. I commend the faculty for their academic leadership, the staff for their dedication, and the University's governance organs for their guidance and support. Their collective effort has ensured the successful delivery of programmes aligned with the University's mandate. As graduates of this institution, you are expected to apply your knowledge responsibly and to maintain the highest standards of professionalism in all assignments entrusted to you. Continuous learning, discipline, and integrity should remain guiding principles throughout your careers. On behalf of University management, I congratulate you on this achievement and wish you success as you contribute to national, regional, and institutional objectives in an increasingly complex security environment.



As the first cohort of graduates since when NIRU attained its Charter, you set the foundation upon which the University's future reputation and legacy will be built.



National Intelligence and Research University (NIRU)

Inaugural Graduation 2026

About the National Intelligence and Research University (NIRU)

The National Intelligence and Research University (NIRU) is a chartered institution dedicated to advancing intelligence education and strategic research in response to an evolving and increasingly complex security environment. In November 2024, NIRU was awarded a Charter to operate as an autonomous university with a specialised focus on intelligence, security, and research.

Located in Nairobi, NIRU is Kenya's first university owned and managed by the National Intelligence Service (NIS). Formerly a constituent college of the National Defence University-Kenya (NDU-K), the University builds on a strong institutional foundation rooted in national security, discipline, and applied scholarship.

Through rigorous academic programmes, practitioner-informed teaching, and research-driven inquiry, NIRU develops professionals equipped with the analytical, ethical, and strategic capabilities required to support sound decision-making and strengthen national and regional security.

At a glance

2024 Year it was Chartered	4 Ongoing Masters Programs
7 Graduating Students are from 7 countries. Burundi, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya.	22 Current cohort has students from 22 African countries

CONGRATULATIONS, NIRU!

The Chancellor, Council, Senate, staff and students of the Open University of Kenya (OUK) congratulate the leadership, faculty and graduands of the National Research and Intelligence University (NIRU) on the occasion of your graduation.

This milestone is a testament to your steadfast commitment to academic excellence, research, discipline and national service. It marks not only the culmination of rigorous study for the graduands but also the continued growth and impact of NIRU in advancing knowledge and intelligence scholarship.

We celebrate this success with you and wish the graduands the best in their service to the nation.

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Office of the Vice Chancellor

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH UNIVERSITY INAUGURAL GRADUATION CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) congratulates the National Intelligence and Research University (NIRU) on the occasion of Inaugural Graduation Ceremony. The graduation of the Class of 2026 in the Master of Arts in Intelligence Studies is a defining moment in history and milestone in the National Intelligence and Research University's journey in transforming intelligence studies and research in Kenya and the region. This milestone reflects the visionary leadership, academic rigor and commitment to creating robust strategic intelligence scholarship and research in the Country and region. The University commends NIRU for nurturing professionals who will serve our nation with integrity, discipline, and strategic foresight.

To the graduands, congratulations on this achievement. DeKUT wishes you success as you take up your responsibility in advancing national security and development, empowered with new and advanced knowledge and skills.

DeKUT is proud to be a strategic partner in academics, research and innovation. We continue to advance shared excellence, knowledge creation, and impactful solutions for Kenya and the region.

NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE
nation@daily.com

Congratulations!

The National Defence College celebrates NIRU's inaugural graduation and our shared history and legacy in shaping excellence in intelligence and strategic leadership.

GLOCEPS Congratulates NIRU on its First Commencement Ceremony following the award of Charter as a fully-fledged specialized University by His Excellency Dr. William Samoei Ruto, C.G.H., President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces.

We look forward to continued collaboration in academic research, publications and convening of dialogues in pursuit of global peace and prosperity.

Congratulations!

Brig. (Rtd.) W.A.C Boinett, MGH, CBS
Chair, GLOCEPS Council

Congratulations!

The United States International University-Africa offers its warmest congratulations to National Intelligence and Research University on its inaugural graduation ceremony. This is a remarkable achievement for an institution that is focused on training researchers for Africa and a testament to its students' hard work, dedication, and perseverance. To all the graduates, this is a moment to be cherished, to be celebrated and to be used to leverage future accomplishments. Go forth and serve this continent and the world with confidence and dedication

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

Kenya Forest Service takes this opportunity to congratulate the National Intelligence and Research University (NIRU), On the Occasion of its Inaugural Graduation Ceremony to be held on 17th February, 2026.

NIRU is a valuable partner in enhancement of Forest Conservation, Protection and Security of all forest resources countrywide. The role of NIRU in training and research complements the role of the Service in securing all forests for current and future generations. Ultimately, NIRU contributes to the national strategy of growing 15 billion trees for achievement of 30 percent tree cover by 2032.

Hongera to all the Graduands!

OPINION

A PUBLICATION OF THE
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Let's keep politics out of our security institutions

Recent public statements by political leaders concerning the National Police Service (NPS) have raised grave concerns about an emerging and dangerous trend: the politicisation and ethnicisation of Kenya's security institutions. This trajectory extends beyond partisan rhetoric it threatens constitutional order, institutional professionalism, national cohesion, and public trust in law enforcement.

Portraying the leadership of the NPS as aligned with any particular region, ethnic community, or political faction fundamentally misrepresents the constitutional character of these offices. The Inspector-General (IG) of Police is not a regional emissary, political surrogate, or communal representative. The office is firmly anchored in Article 245 of the Constitution of Kenya, which explicitly guarantees the operational independence of the National Police Service. Under this constitutional framework, the IG is answerable only to the Constitution, the law, and the people of Kenya not to political patrons, ethnic blocs, or personal networks.

This independence extends equally to the Director of Criminal Investigations (DCI). The DCI's mandate requires evidence-based, impartial, and legally grounded investigations, free from political pressure or populist influence. Decisions to investigate, charge, or clear any individual must be guided by forensic integrity, due process, and professional investigative standards, not by political narratives, media sensationalism, or partisan convenience.

Similarly, the Deputy Inspectors-General both of the Kenya Police Service (KPS) and the Administration Police Service (APS) have demonstrated commendable professionalism, operational discipline, and commitment to institutional reform. Their leadership reflects continued efforts to strengthen command accountability, ethical policing, intelligence-led operations, digital modernisation, and community-centered policing hallmarks of a modern, accountable security sector.

Kenya's history offers cautionary lessons. Previous political eras witnessed attempts both overt and covert to influence security institutions, often at the cost of neutrality and public confidence. In contrast, recent reforms within the NPS signal meaningful progress toward a professional, constitutionally grounded, and independent policing model. These gains must be safeguarded, not undermined

The Inspector-General (IG) of Police is not a regional emissary, political surrogate, or communal representative



Harun Issack Hassan | Ethnicity

by reckless political rhetoric. Framing national security leadership through narratives of "our person" versus "their person" is not only irresponsible, it risks embedding ethnic polarisation within institutions that must remain neutral, disciplined, and nationally unified. When policing is judged through tribal or partisan lenses, professionalism erodes, accountability weakens, and public trust deteriorates, ultimately undermining both the rule of law and national stability.

Equally concerning are claims that lawful police engagement with political actors automatically constitutes political persecution. Police interaction with politicians whether for investigations, intelligence gathering, or public order management is a routine and legitimate function of law enforcement. Such engagement should be evaluated based on legality, evidence, and procedural fairness, not political convenience or populist outrage.

Where legitimate concerns about police conduct arise, Kenya possesses robust constitutional and statutory oversight mechanisms, including the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (Ipoa), the NPS Internal Affairs Unit, parliamentary oversight committees, and the Judiciary. Circumventing these institutions in favour of public grandstanding weakens accountability and fuels public cynicism toward both politics and law enforcement.

National security must never become a campaign tool. Responsible leadership demands restraint, constitutional fidelity, factual accuracy, and respect for institutional boundaries.

Dr Hassan, PhD, Professor of Psychology, Governance and Leadership

Shield girls against abuse

The Epstein files continue to reveal gory details about the extent to which the high and the mighty sexually exploited young girls. The details are sickening. Their dehumanisation of the young girls as sexual objects is appalling. Yet

the authorities somehow knew what was happening and ignored the initial voices of the survivors who raised the alarm. Now, some muted apologies have been offered. Some form of accountability is happening. But to the survivors, the abuse has resulted in lifelong physical and emotional trauma.

According to non-governmental organisation Equality Now, every year, more than 400 million children worldwide are exposed to child sexual exploitation and abuse. Closer home, this exploitation and abuse is happening in our homesteads, schools, and other spaces that should make the children feel safe.

Technology has exacerbated the abuse of children with the proliferation of "undressing" apps and AI-generated images. What happens when we get to hear or know of such abuses?

Just like the Epstein case, the survivors are hardly listened to. If anything, we start questioning the "timing" of the exposé as was the case involving a teacher in a

Just like the Epstein case, the survivors are hardly listened to



Purity Kemei | Exploitation

prominent school last year.

When such doubts occur, we dim one thing that most survivors have. Their agency. This is the internal compass that allows a girl to navigate a world that too often tries to steer her. Agency manifests as the power to make informed choices; to pursue education and to reject unwanted advances. However, girls' agency can only go as far as our social systems allow.

Building this agency is the most sustainable defence against sexual exploitation. Perpetrators rely on the dismantling of a child's self-worth; they bank on the expectation of silence.

The author is the communications coordinator at AMPLIFY Girls Africa

There is a dire need to rid the profession of sexual predators who take advantage of their positions to prey on vulnerable junior advocates



Nicholas Sumba | Dishonour

Sexual violence dominates LSK poll campaigns

As the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) goes to the polls on February 19 to elect a new executive council, the issue of sexual harassment among its membership has again dominated the election campaigns.

If the messages circulating on social media platforms is anything to go by, the suggestion that this could sink the legal profession would be an understatement. The vice—especially against young upcoming women lawyers and students joining the profession—seems so entrenched that it has become the norm rather than the exception.

Soliciting for sexual favours from junior advocates and/or pupils has never been as rampant. It has gained notoriety and normalcy to the extent that harassment is no longer camouflaged.

This savage act has gone on unabated for long due to lack of appropriate deterrence measures to weed out the bad apples from the legal profession. LSK's Sexual Harassment and Anti-Bullying Policy (SHABP), adopted in 2019 as an internal tool, is a toothless bulldog as it is not entrenched in law by way of a statute.

The LSK disciplinary tribunal's decision of November 27 last year, which found that it has no jurisdiction to deal with sexual harassment complaints, has not made the situation any better. The tribunal found that such complaints fall under the ambit of the court's criminal jurisdiction. Yet disgraceful or dishonourable conduct incompatible with the status of an advocate is among the disciplinary offences for gross misconduct under Section 60 (1) of the Advocates Act.

Grave offence

To my mind, sexual violence, molestation and/or harassment in any form should amount to dishonourable conduct on the part of an advocate. LSK should initiate the necessary legislative amendments to specifically define and expand the said provision of the law to include sexual harassment as professional misconduct.

In fact, the controversial tribunal decision should also be escalated by way of appeal to the High Court. The court can then settle the matter through interpretation of the provisions of the law to give clear guidelines on the place of this vice as a disciplinary issue against an advocate as read together with Art. 28 and 29 (c) (f) of the Constitution.

The incoming office should prioritise an inquiry that would collate complaints with a view to putting in place adequate, protective measures for the victims. They should also assist the victims to lodge complaints with the police with a view to having the culprits charged in court with the relevant criminal offences under the provisions of Sections 5 and/or 23 of the Sexual Offences Act.

There is a dire need to rid the profession of sexual predators who take advantage of their positions to prey on vulnerable and desperate junior advocates and pupils. It is shameful for an advocate who took oath to respect and promote the rule of law to be the one breaking it. The grave offence of sexual violence, molestation and/or harassment leaves victims with lifelong—if not permanent—trauma.

Mr Sumba is an advocate of the High Court of Kenya. nicsumba@yahoo.com.

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

DAILY NATION

Act fast to avert starvation and rising livestock deaths

No country can be at peace with itself while a huge chunk of its citizens are facing acute starvation. Sadly, this is the situation as a large number of Kenyans are now staring at death.

But what is even more worrying is what has been described as starvation amid plenty. It is a national disaster in the making, as the country has been split into two groups. While thousands are being ravaged by famine, particularly in the northern regions, some government officials are going about their business as if nothing is happening.

Some emaciated Kenyans are already watching helplessly, as livestock die for lack of pasture and water. The authorities are saying that some 3.3 million Kenyans across 16 counties are facing starvation. At the same time, there is a glut in food production, and crops are rotting away on farms in some places, including Mt Kenya and the eastern regions.

It's quite outrageous that in some areas surplus produce is wasting away on the farms, and yet in other parts of this same country, many people are starving and watching their livestock perish. Drought has tightened its vicious grip, wiping out and decimating livestock, the key source of livelihood for the people in these remote, faraway lands in the north.

The devastation is stark. Carcasses of goats and sheep lie scattered under the hot sun. There is a need for quick and sustained interventions to save people and livestock.

Whenever there is a natural calamity, such as the failed short rainy season of late last year, the pastoralists bear the brunt, as they helplessly watch their wealth being ravaged.

The government should urgently address the fast-increasing famine threat. As the authorities ensure that relief supplies are quickly mobilised and distributed, lasting solutions must also be implemented. A remedy is possible through long-term policies to guarantee food security. They include rainwater harvesting and irrigation projects, as well as improved roads and markets for farm produce. Food ration stores and efficient distribution are also crucial.



Police must respect rights

The ugly scenes witnessed as police fired bullets in Kitengela Township in Kajiado County at the weekend, disrupting a rally by a group of ODM party leaders, are an unfortunate reminder that bad habits die hard. Chaos broke out on Sunday as police lobbed teargas, with some people getting injured in the ensuing stampede.

But in a sharp contrast, another ODM group's rally in Mombasa went on peacefully, with the leaders using the opportunity to explain the apparent split in the party that does not augur well for its future, especially in the run-up to next year's General Election.

The cardinal duty of the police is protect people and their property irrespective of their political affiliations. The freedoms of assembly and expression are enshrined in the Constitution. They are not granted by the National Police Service, whose only duty is to enforce law and order.

All the organisers are supposed to do is inform the police for their safety to be enhanced. The police do not license or even authorise such meetings or events.

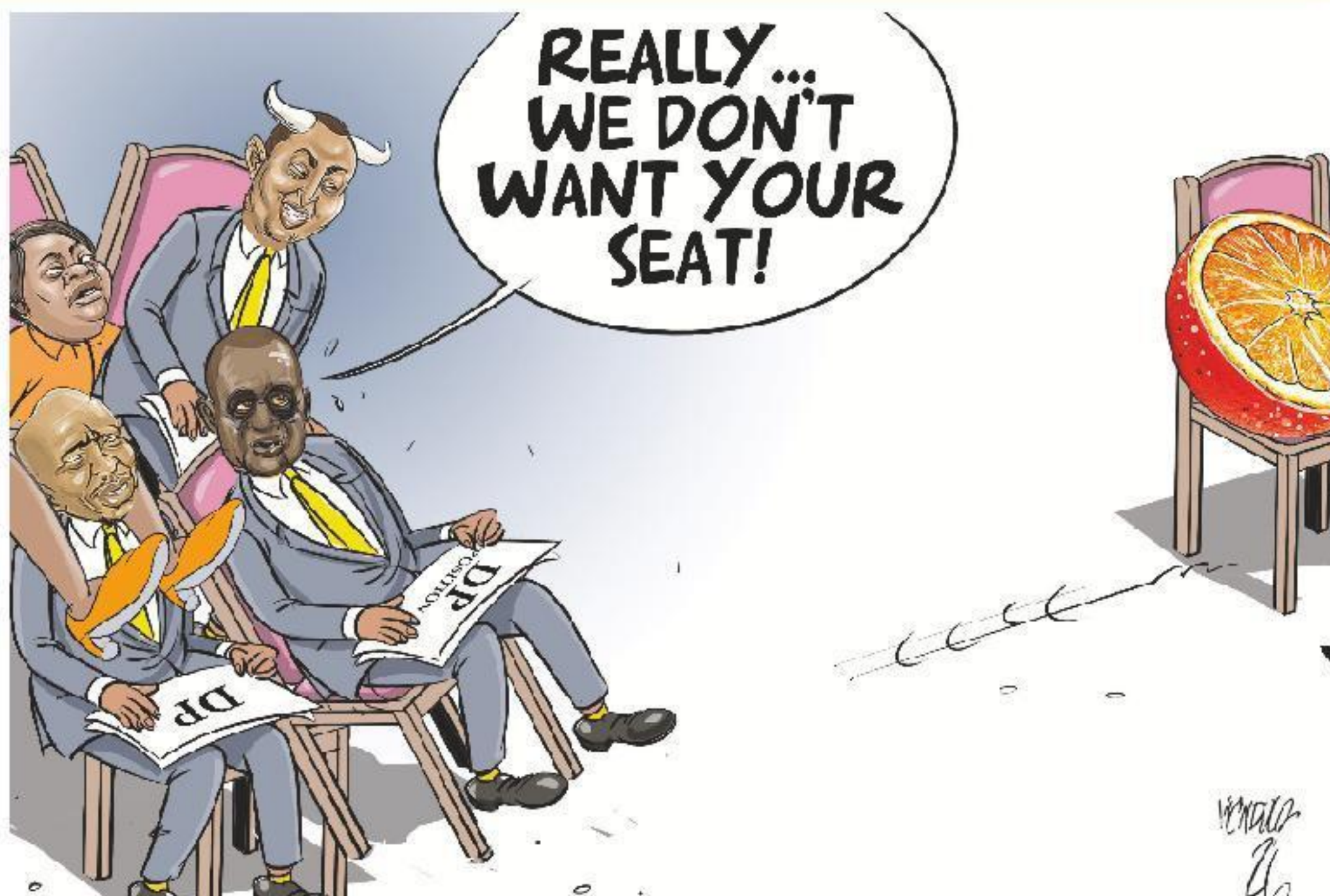
New party leader Oburu Oginga is facing opposition from embattled secretary-general Edwin Sifuna and his allies, including a deputy leader, a senator, and some MPs.

An attempt to oust Mr Sifuna has been temporarily blocked by the Political Parties Tribunal until the dispute is heard and determined.

However, his first major political rally since his removal as the ODM secretary-general ended in mayhem after police fired shots into the air and lobbed teargas to disperse supporters.

Mr Sifuna has declared that he is the bona fide secretary-general, vowing to stay put in the party, which has been destabilised by the death of founding leader Raila Odinga. He has accused the State of harassment and intimidation.

Police must avoid being drawn into partisan political contests and refuse to be misused by those in power to harass their opponents.

Are we seeing a Sifuna Moment?
nation@daily.com

Every once in a while, a leader emerges to capture the imagination and adoration of the public across the usual ethnic, party and other fault lines. This extremely rare occurrence often marks a generational shift from an ossified leadership set to another more in tune with the changing times and seasons. Might we be witnessing the Sifuna Moment?

If events of the past week are anything to go by, Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna, has been elevated to the national psyche since his attempted ouster as ODM Secretary-General by President William Ruto's faction of the venerable opposition movement.

Two parallel ODM events on Sunday provided a stark illustration of where the momentum is right now. At the Tononoka grounds in Mombasa, party leader Oburu Oginga and a supporting cast out to cut a coalition deal with President Ruto's UDA presented a damp squib. The veteran Siaya senator clearly has not been able to fill the giant leadership shoes inherited from his departed younger brother, Raila Odinga.

Halfway across the country in the dusty Kitengela township just outside Nairobi, Mr Sifuna's rival rally was received by a large and energised crowd that aptly captured the public clamour for change. For Mr Sifuna and his crew, the reception in Kitengela was illustrative of which ODM faction carries Raila's spirit. Police disruption of the roadshow with indiscriminate tear gas volleys very helpfully completed the picture.

A stark lesson from the weekend is that the eloquent Mr Sifuna, 43, represents the energy and imagination of a generation that dares imagine a brave new future not shaped by the straitjacket of conventional leadership.

By contrast, Dr Oginga, nearly 40 years older, comes across as a relic of the past. His doddering presence and often incoherent train of thought must have close allies

Mr Sifuna and his crew, the reception in Kitengela was illustrative of which ODM faction carries Raila's spirit. Police disruption of the roadshow with indiscriminate tear gas volleys very helpfully completed the picture



**Macharia Gaitho |
Generational shift**

in the ODM leadership wincing every time he takes to the podium. Even the president might be having second thoughts on whether his designated point man within ODM is capable of swinging the massive vote bank his way.

Oburu, simply put, is not Raila, who even in the period leading up to his death at the age of 80 last October, still commanded a presence as the voice and inspiration for millions in the struggle for democracy and human rights.

It remains a mystery why the lackluster Siaya senator, who has never cut a political profile of his own, was selected to succeed his younger brother as ODM leader.

Dr Oginga is clearly out of his depth. The more that reality becomes evident, chances are that his backers, including President Ruto, will accept that there is a yawning vacuum in ODM, and especially the Raila's Nyanza bedrock.

Once it is concluded that he cannot deliver, Dr Oginga will probably be persuad-

ed to step down. The problem is that those presently gravitating around him and also looking to upward mobility—including party chair Gladys Wangari, Cabinet secretaries Ali Hassan Joho and John Mbadi, Mombasa Governor Abdulswamad Shariff Nassir and other likely beneficiaries of pre-election pact—might be seen as mere Ruto puppets if they step in to fill the void.

From the other side, the Sifuna Moment gaining traction with a series of rallies planned across the country might see many politicians in ODM, who are currently sitting on the fence, moving towards the side that seems to have captured the imagination of the masses.

There is also no doubt that the existing United Opposition fronted by former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, Wiper Party leader Kalonzo Musyoka and former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i will be keen to have Senator Sifuna's team on board. This would give him a front-row seat at the negotiating table, especially if he brings with him both the spirit of Raila, and the ideals of the "leaderless, tribeless, partyless: Gen Z revolt that rocked the Ruto regime in 2024.

If the surge holds, Mr Sifuna is also set to reap big in the leadership chasm in the populous Western Kenya, where a significant ODM base will likely rally around him, as might supporters of Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi and National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula who were left in the lurch when their leaders latched onto President Ruto's coattails.

How things turn out in coming weeks and months leading to 2027 remains to be seen, but it is apparent that Mr Sifuna, the man of the moment, is on a trajectory that if properly guided, can place him at the apex of the Kenyan leadership; or he could come tumbling down to earth if unable to compete in the premier league.

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

Opposition • President William Ruto has lately been trashing the opposition leaders as people who “don’t have an agenda, have nothing to show, and are rudderless”, which David Yator strongly disagrees with. “The role of the opposition is to hold the government accountable. His own is heavily taxing Kenyans and failing to provide tangible development countrywide.” His email address is davidyator14@gmail.com.

Folly • ODM members are behaving badly, says Carol Maina. “They shouldn’t be the ones joining UDA, but vice versa. How can you leave a 20-year-old home for a barely five-year-old party? You should join hands with the people who have manoeuvred the journey much longer, not younger folks. However, fulfilling promises should be the yardstick, not parties.” Her contact is carshima2000@yahoo.com.

Theft • Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale’s revelation that Sh11 billion was stolen from the Social Health Authority in six months, without taking responsibility, is “a poor attempt at gaslighting Kenyans”, says Taabu Tele. “He must stop his theatrics of talking tough on the theft without results to show for his characteristic political grandstanding.” His contact is taabu.tele@mail.com.

Aggression • Visiting Nairobi’s densely populated slums, Brian Maitai notes, one will quickly notice that a large number of the young people work out in gyms and develop massive muscles. “I suspect that some may be using anabolic steroids, which cause uncontrollable anger and aggression that can cause deaths. It’s common in the US and could be happening here.” His contact is bgmaitai@gmail.com.

Accuracy • Road signs and signposts must be accurate as they are essential tools, but this is not always the case, as a hawk-eyed Mwai Muturi has found out. Says he: “There’s a road sign at Roysambu in Nairobi next to TRM near the turn-off to Kamiti Road indicating the distance to Kamiti as 25km. Kamiti Prison is only about 5km away.” His contact is mwai.muturip@gmail.com. Have a precise day, won’t you!

LETTERS

Police should secure, not hurt residents

As residents of Kitengela, Kajiado County, are frustrated and are developing mistrust in the police. The unrest on Sunday before ODM Secretary-General Edwin Sifuna addressed residents is one in a string of incidents where police have used excessive force against peaceful Kenyans in the area. On Sunday, the police used live and rubber bullets and lobbed tear gas canisters to disperse the crowds, without considering the safety of young children and other people. Traders also lost business and some were injured. The police and politicians should work together to uphold security, ensure the safety of citizens and normal running of businesses.

Maureen Cheserek, Kajiado

Counties should push rainwater collection

Ukambani region receives little rain every season. Much of this water flows away. The water doesn’t benefit residents because the county governments have not put in place measures to collect it for farming or domestic use. To make matters worse, the water in the rivers is contaminated by effluent from companies and homes, in complete disregard of environmental rules and regulations. The governments should find a way to collect and channel the rainwater for farming, instead of leaving it to create gullies and cause havoc. The governments can, for example, invest in water pans. This way, we will avoid the damage caused by flash floods and overflowing rivers and help to improve food security.

Mutua Muthusi Mainga, Machakos

Drought, glut consequences of State failure

The irony of food crops going to waste in one part of the country, while there are livestock-rearing citizens starving elsewhere, is unmistakable. Because of information asymmetry, logistical challenges and imperfect supply chains, the markets cannot move quickly enough to absorb—at a fair price—what is being oversupplied. Markets are not benevolent either, and react with speed only where large and easy gains can be made. So the government, through its agencies, should have long-foreseen this scenario and positioned itself as a buyer of last resort, or a market maker. An opportunity has been lost needlessly, along with many resources and lives.

Francis Kamau, Kiambu

To save Meru rivers, regulate water use

The rivers of Meru are drying up downstream, causing serious hardship for communities that depend on them. Kathita River is now largely a bed of boulders with only a thin stream of water. Just a few kilometres upstream, multiple intakes divert water for irrigation and domestic use. While access to water is essential, many users lack proper storage, leading to significant wastage. A past proposal to install water meters to regulate use and reduce waste faced resistance. Without responsible management, however, Meru’s rivers will continue to shrink—hurting downstream communities and threatening sustainability for future generations.

Allan Kinyua Muriangi, Meru

Hyacinth can be turned into a resource

For decades, water hyacinth has plagued Lake Victoria. The plant has strangled the local economy in Kisumu, Nyakach and Kendu Bay, among other areas, that rely on fishing, water transportation and tourism. With the right incentives and guidelines at county level, entrepreneurs and community groups can transform this threat into an economic resource. The plant’s fibrous structure can be harnessed for making paper products. With appropriate technologies it can be used for bio fuel, bio fertiliser and animal feed.

Cheril Ochieng, Maseno University

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

TODAY IN HISTORY



February 17, 1999: Foreign Affairs Minister Bonaya Godana announces the closure of all Kenyan embassies to stave off attacks by Kurdish rebels. The move follows Turkey’s capture of Kurdish guerrilla leader Abdullah Ocalan in Nairobi. Ocalan was flown out of Kenya two nights earlier. Dr Godana said staff in the missions were expected to do whatever work they could from their own homes.

COMPILED BY ANNIEL NJOKA

LETTER OF THE DAY

State must stop acts of political intolerance

In the countdown to the 2027 General Election, the country is witnessing worrying signs of political upheaval. These developments raise a chilling and deeply disturbing question: Are we deliberately dismantling the democratic fabric that binds our nation together?

Recent incidents paint a troubling picture. The attack on ACK Witima Church in Othaya during a service attended by former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and the police disruption of Senator Edwin Sifuna’s rally in Kitengela are glaring symptoms of deepening political in-

tolerance. Barely a year and a half before Kenyans head to the ballot, the political temperature is not merely rising—it is boiling. This is not the healthy heat of robust national debate or constructive engagement aimed at nation-building. Instead, it is a destructive fire fuelled by a deliberate effort to deny dissenting voices the space to express themselves.

Article 37 explicitly guarantees every person the right to assemble. Article 33 protects freedom of expression, while Article 36 safeguards freedom of associ-

ation. When the State deploying violence against unarmed citizens exercising their constitutional rights is a blatant violation of the rule of law.

The current trajectory—marked by actions that undermine fundamental rights and weaken democratic institutions—casts a long, dark shadow over the road to 2027. If intolerance becomes normalised, it risks creating a climate of fear that discourages participation and ultimately compromises the integrity of the electoral process.

Security agencies, particularly the police, must remain political-

ly neutral. Any perception of bias or selective enforcement of the law only deepens divisions and erodes public confidence.

Political leaders must know that suppression may yield short-term political advantage, but they inflict long-term damage on national cohesion.

As we move steadily towards 2027, the choice before us is clear: we can nurture a culture of tolerance, dialogue, and constitutionalism, or we can allow intolerance to erode the democratic gains we have worked so hard to achieve.

Noah Wesonga, Egerton University



GREG MORT WALKER 11/20

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BEETLE BAILEY

County News

Laikipia Inoperable equipment, expired medical supplies, and chronic understaffing are among the issues raised

Audit unearths healthcare woes as four hospitals under scrutiny

The county government's capacity to provide healthcare has been questioned with an audit report flagging four hospitals over the quality and accessibility of their medical services

BY COLLINS OMULO

Four major health facilities run by the Laikipia County Government are operating with severe shortages of essential equipment, medicines and specialised staff, an audit report has revealed.

The findings raise serious concerns about the quality and accessibility of healthcare services offered at the county's main referral and sub-county hospitals.

The report by Auditor-General Nancy Gathungu paints a grim picture of major systemic gaps affecting service delivery at Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital, Nyahururu County Referral Hospital, Doldol Level Four Hospital and Rumuruti Sub-county Hospital.

According to the audit for the financial year ended June 2025, the facilities are grappling with non-functional medical equipment, expired pharmaceutical supplies and critical staffing shortages in key departments.

The report warns that these deficiencies could compromise patient safety and access to constitutionally guaranteed health services. "These deficiencies contravene the First Schedule of the Health Act, 2017 and imply that accessing the highest attainable standard of health, including reproductive healthcare, may not be achieved," Ms Gathungu said.

Nyahururu County Referral Hospital, a key facility in the devolved unit, lacks functional intensive care unit (ICU) and high dependency unit (HDU) beds, despite policy guidelines requiring at least six beds for a Level Four hospital. The



The Critical Care Unit at Nanyuki Level Five Hospital in Laikipia County on July 30, 2020. FILE | NATION

bators.

Governor Irungu admitted that the hospital faces persistent shortages of staff and infrastructure due to limited budgetary allocations and wider staffing constraints affecting county health services. He said the county is working to acquire equipment through the national equipment service programme and donor-supported initiatives to improve service delivery.

Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital is also affected. The audit found that its maternity theatre, intended for obstetric and emergency maternal care, remains non-operational, limiting the facility's ability to provide essential maternal health services.

"Despite the need for expanded maternity services, the theatre has not been commissioned, thereby limiting the hospital's ability to perform procedures that should ordinarily be available within the facility," Ms Gathungu said.

Rumuruti Sub-county Hospital is similarly in dire straits. The facility lacks key specialists, including anaesthesiologists, surgeons, gynaecologists, paediatricians and radiologists, against the recommended staffing levels.

Only one medical officer and 18 community health nurses are currently deployed, far below required numbers.

The hospital also lacks ICU and HDU beds, functional operating theatres and dialysis machines, and does not provide critical services such as surgical operations, emergency obstetric care, renal dialysis, radiology, mortuary services and Caesarean sections.

"The hospital did not offer surgical, radiology, emergency obstetric care, oral health services, renal dialysis, mortuary and autopsy services and Caesarean sections as expected of a Level Four hospital," the audit report states.

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hospital also has no newborn unit cots, falling short of the minimum requirement of five.

Staffing shortages have compounded the problem. The hospital operates with only one anaesthesiologist and one gynaecologist, limiting its capacity to provide specialised care. Essential medicines, including amoxicillin, were unavailable, with the county attributing the shortage to delays in disbursement from the Social Health Authority.

The audit further found expired pharmaceutical products, including emergency pills of unknown value, still stored in the hospital's main pharmacy.

Appearing before the Senate County Public Investments and Special Funds Committee, Governor Joshua Irungu was questioned over the state of healthcare facilities in the county.

Nyahururu Teaching and Referral Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Lawrence Kamande acknowledged the challenges, saying

These deficiencies contravene the First Schedule of the Health Act, 2017 and imply that accessing the highest attainable standard of health may not be achieved.

Auditor-General Nancy Gathungu



the hospital is seeking funding to construct ICU facilities, a mental health unit, amenity wards and a CT scan centre.

"The hospital had two gynaecologists, but one resigned in March 2025. The county government is currently recruiting additional healthcare workers to be deployed across facilities, including Nyahururu County Referral Hospital,"

Dr Kamande said.

At Doldol Level Four Hospital, the audit identified severe gaps in both infrastructure and staffing. The hospital lacks key specialists, including anaesthesiologists, general surgeons, gynaecologists, paediatricians and radiologists, against a requirement of two in each category.

Only one medical officer and six registered community health nurses are currently deployed at the facility, far below the required 16 medical officers and 75 nurses.

The hospital also lacks essential infrastructure, including ICU and HDU beds, a renal unit with dialysis machines, and functional maternity and general operating theatres. Critical services such as Caesarean sections, surgical operations, mortuary services and autopsies are unavailable.

In addition, the hospital has only 16 inpatient beds, one newborn cot and one incubator, significantly below the required capacity of 150 beds, five cots and three incu-

18

Number of community health nurses deployed at Rumuruti hospital alongside one medical officer.

Uasin Gishu

Over 600 bags of suspected fake fertiliser seized in Eldoret raid

BY STEVE KETER

Police in Eldoret have seized more than 600 bags of suspected counterfeit fertiliser in a raid on an agrovet shop in Nairobi along the Eldoret-Kaptagat Road, in a crackdown ahead of the planting season.

Uasin Gishu Deputy County Commissioner Patrick Wekesa said the 60-kilogramme bags of Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) fertiliser had allegedly been

tampered with after being sourced from the National Cereals and Produce Board depot in Eldoret.

Mr Wekesa termed the scheme a serious economic crime that defrauds farmers and threatens regional food security.

Police officers acting on a tip-off raided the premises on Saturday evening and recovered the consignment, estimated to be worth more than Sh6 million.

Investigators believe the suspect bought

subsidised fertiliser at about Sh2,500 per bag and resold the repackaged product at around Sh6,000.

Mr Wekesa said the proprietor of Kotut Balers, the business linked to the seizure, is at large and a manhunt is under way.

The seizure comes as farmers prepare for the long rains planting season, raising concerns over the circulation of substandard farm inputs. Uasin Gishu Senator Jackson Mandago urged farmers to remain

vigilant when buying fertiliser.

"Counterfeit fertiliser leads to poor yields and undermines government efforts to boost agricultural productivity," he said. Police have advised farmers who bought fertiliser from the outlet to seek verification from the National Cereals and Produce Board.

Authorities said forensic analysis will be conducted on the seized fertiliser as investigations continue.

County News

Lamu KEY Libraries is planning to expand the programme to its 46 facilities across the country

BY KALUME KAZUNGU

At exactly 2pm, sunlight streams through a high window into the library at Shella Comprehensive School in Lamu, where head teacher Warda Ali Aboud sits at a desktop computer preparing her next lesson.

Dressed in a black buibui and matching hijab, Ms Ali reviews a lesson plan on her screen. Besides managing the school, she also teaches Social Studies and Islamic Religious Education.

"This is our Knowledge Empowering Youth (KEY) Laboratory library. It has greatly transformed both teaching and learning. Lesson planning is easier, and learners can use the computers to conduct research and explore topics more deeply," she says.

Improve access

Shella Comprehensive School is among institutions benefiting from the KEY Libraries initiative, which has introduced offline digital libraries to improve access to educational resources, particularly in areas with limited internet connectivity.

Last week, KEY Libraries, in partnership with Wikimedia Kenya and Kiwix, integrated the Kiwix for Schools programme at the Lamu-based institution.

Kiwix is an offline digital library that allows access to Wikipedia and other learning materials without internet connection, enabling learners and teachers to use educational content anytime.

Ms Ali says the programme has helped teachers access diverse teaching materials, including videos and research content, making lessons more engaging.

Robotics training

"We are happy with the programme. It has improved pupils' English-speaking skills, increased their interest in reading, and made them more confident learners," she says.

The initiative has also introduced robotics training to the school's more than 400 learners, strengthening innovation and practical skills in line with the Competency-Based Education (CBE) system.

Teachers have received train-



Shella Comprehensive School teachers are trained on how to use the KEY Libraries effectively on Thursday last week. KALUME KAZUNGU | NATION

Digital libraries open a new world for learners

Learners in Lamu County are exploring possibilities, discovering new ideas, and learning independently for the first time, empowered by offline digital libraries

ing on using Wikipedia as a classroom resource to support research, fact-checking and digital literacy. Kiwix co-founder Stephane Coillet-Matillon said lack of internet access should not prevent learners from accessing knowledge.

"The integration of Kiwix for Schools aims to expand access to free and open educational resources for learners and teachers in Lamu County," he said.

KEY Libraries Programmes Manager Gladys Kerich said libraries remain central to improving education outcomes, especially in underserved areas.

"By adopting Kiwix for Schools, we are advancing our mission to provide equitable access to knowledge and ensure libraries remain hubs for education and innovation," she said.

KEY Libraries plans to expand the programme to its 46 facilities across the country, targeting underserved communities where access to learning resources remains limited.

Wikimedia Kenya Coast Regional Coordinator Michael Maua said the partnership promotes digital literacy and equitable access to information.

"This collaboration empowers educators and learners with tools that work even in low-connectivity environments," he said.

For Ms Ali and her pupils, the digital library has opened new opportunities for learning, discovery and innovation, transforming the classroom experience and preparing learners for a digital future.

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46

Number of libraries across Kenya where KEY Libraries plans to scale the Kiwix for Schools programme.

EXPLAINER

What is the KEY Libraries initiative?

- The Knowledge Empowering Youth (KEY) Libraries initiative equips schools with digital libraries containing offline educational resources, including Wikipedia, videos and teaching materials.
- Implemented in partnership with Wikimedia Kenya and Kiwix, the programme enables learners and teachers to access knowledge without internet connectivity.
- It supports digital literacy, research, and Competency-Based Curriculum learning, particularly in underserved areas.
- KEY Libraries also trains teachers and introduces learners to technology such as robotics, expanding access to quality education across Kenya's marginalised communities nationwide.

Locals want quarries filled after boy drowns

BY GEORGE ODIWUOR

Last Saturday, Samuel Odoyo was waiting for his 10 children to join him for a prayer service at his Ogande Village church when the flag post in front of the building suddenly toppled. Though shaken, he reassured himself that his family was safe.

Back at home, his wife Dorcas Akoth realised one child, Blessing Jayden, a Grade One pupil, was missing. Some of the children had gone to fetch water from a nearby flooded quarry. Construction companies pay residents to excavate murrum for building, leaving behind deep pits that fill with rainwater, creating hidden hazards.

Ms Akoth said Blessing had lingered to bathe. As she searched, she heard wailing from the crowd. She soon learned her son had drowned in one of the quarries. By the time he was rushed to hospital, he had died.

Residents say at least five children have died in similar incidents over the past decade. They blame construction companies for indiscriminate excavation and the lack of land rehabilitation.

Community leaders have proposed filling pits with sugarcane waste, which could restore the land and provide farming manure, but some landowners resist for fear of losing income.

Mr Odoyo has repeatedly contacted authorities, including the National Environment Management Authority, to address the hazards. He says the church, perched on the edge of a quarry, and local children remain at grave risk. "Some children leave their parents to play outside. The pits lie on both sides of the church. I warned authorities the quarry would kill—I never imagined it would affect my own child," he said.

Sh175bn released to revive stalled roads at the Coast

BY ANTHONY KITIMO

Construction on key sections of the Mombasa-Mariakani and Mombasa-Kilifi highways in Coast region is set to resume after the government released Sh175 billion to settle verified contractor payments and compensation claims.

Roads and Transport Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir said the long-standing arrears had stalled projects and driven up construction costs. The funds were made available through securitisation of the Road Maintenance Levy, enabling the government to access money upfront against future levy collections.

"We have just rolled out pending bills of Sh175 billion. This will have an immediate impact on the construction sector as stalled projects resume. Where

there were compensation issues, such as in Mazaras, Kanamai and Bombolulu, they have been resolved," Mr Chirchir said during a tour of ongoing projects in Mombasa. He added that clearing the arrears would allow contractors to restart work, rehire retrenched staff, and plan projects more efficiently.

The six-lane Mombasa-Mariakani road involves dualling the existing highway with flyovers, bus bays, service roads, truck parking, pedestrian bridges, walkways, street lighting and associated infrastructure.

The Jomvu-Mariakani section, 41.7km long, is now 75 per cent complete and part of a Sh22 billion project co-financed by the African Development Bank (42.2 per cent), German Development Bank (KfW) (22.2 per cent), European Invest-

41.7km

Length of the Jomvu-Mariakani stretch of the Mombasa-Mariakani highway, which is 75 per cent complete

ment Bank (22.2 per cent), Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund (8.9 per cent), and the government (4.5 per cent).

The Jomvu-Mazaras stretch, a five-kilometre bottleneck, has caused two-hour delays for trucks and other commuters. The route forms a vital section of the Northern Corridor linking Mombasa port to Nairobi and onward to Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Truckers, who benefited from the 2019 Southern Bypass, have

urged faster compensation processes to allow road expansion and reduce delays.

Meanwhile, the Mombasa-Kilifi highway is progressing, with the first lot of the Mtwapa-Kwa Kadzengo-Kilifi (A7) section 80 per cent complete. Part of a Sh789 billion regional initiative dubbed the "Silk Road," the project aims to connect Mtwapa-Malindi and Baga Moyo-Lunga Lungu, enhancing trade and transport between Coastal countries. The works, supported by the African Development Bank, African Development Fund and European Union, were delayed by compensation disputes but are now expected to be completed by December 2026.

Mr Chirchir said the release of funds signals renewed momentum for the Coast region's road network and a boost for local employment and trade.



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DAILY NATION

2026 TOP-NOTCH LAW FIRMS



A Special Feature

Preparations are on for this year's **Top-Notch Law Firms** special feature, which the **Business Daily** publishes annually to provide updates on developments in the national and global legal practice. This year's edition is scheduled to run within the last week of February.

To all legal practitioners as well as trainers, the special feature offers a productive opportunity to keep your clients and prospective customers/learners updated about your services or training, plus any relevant news you may wish to share.

For details regarding placement of content, please contact **Edwin Munala, Winnie Kahoi or Catherine Muthoka** via the contacts below:

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7TH EDITION 2026



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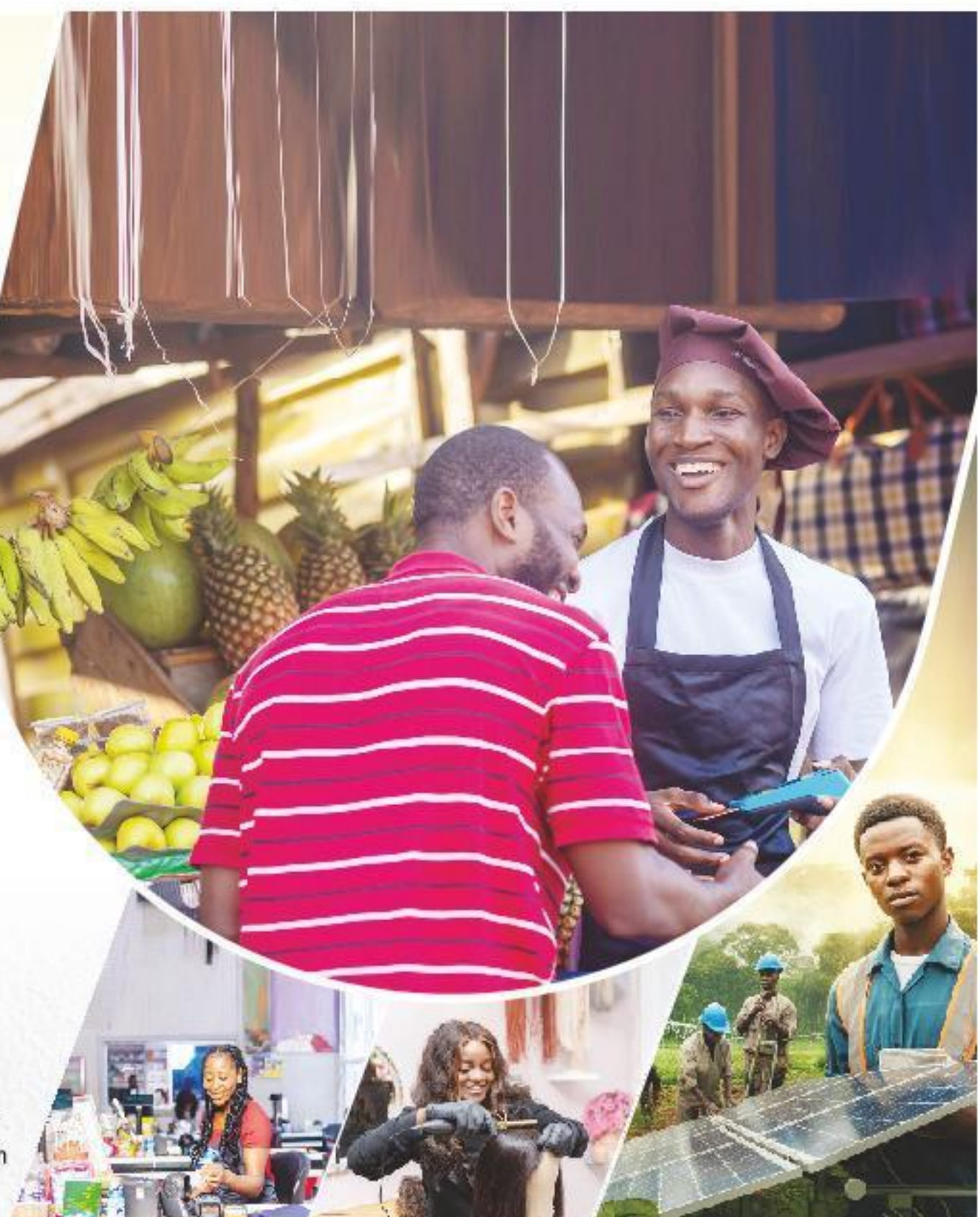
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International

BRIEFLY

Man charged following theft of Egyptian artefacts

SYDNEY • Police in the Australian state of Queensland said in a statement on Sunday that a 52-year-old man was charged with multiple offences following an incident at a museum where Egyptian artefacts were stolen on Friday. Police said that the man smashed a window of the Abbey Place property in Caboolture, about 45 km north of Brisbane, and took a quantity of priceless Egyptian artefacts

before leaving the scene at 3am local time. Around 1:30pm local time on Saturday, police located a vehicle of interest in a car park at Redland Bay ferry terminal, about 32 km southeast of Brisbane. After seizing and searching the vehicle, police found all of the stolen Egyptian artefacts except a wooden cat sculpture. The items were recovered intact, with only minor damage noted. (Xinhua)

US troops intercept another Venezuela-linked oil tanker

WASHINGTON • The Pentagon said on Sunday that US forces intercepted and boarded another Venezuela-linked oil tanker in the Indian Ocean overnight. The vessel, named Veronica III, was tracked by US authorities from the Caribbean Sea to the Indian Ocean before being stopped and inspected, the Pentagon said in a statement on social media platform X. "Overnight, US forces conducted

a right-of-visit, maritime interdiction and boarding of the Veronica III without incident in the INDOPACOM area of responsibility," the statement said. "The vessel tried to defy President Trump's quarantine — Hoping to slip away. We tracked it from the Caribbean to the Indian Ocean, closed the distance and shut it down," the statement said. "International waters are not sanctuary." (Xinhua)

Geopolitics European delegates arrived warily after Vance's sharp criticism at last year's conference

Clash of Western leaders at Munich forum lays bare widening divisions

The US, ironically responsible for forging a new world order post-WW2, has been accused of orchestrating widening rifts

MUNICH, MONDAY

The 62nd Munich Security Conference (MSC) concluded on Sunday after leaders from the United States and Europe clashed for days over the future of the transatlantic partnership and the global order, laying bare their rifts. The Munich Security Report 2026 describes the current era as one of the "wrecking-ball politics": forces favouring destruction over reform are gaining momentum across many Western societies.

Many European delegates had arrived in Munich with heightened unease over US Vice President JD Vance's sharp criticism of Europe at last year's conference, as well as US President Donald Trump's repeated threats to annex Greenland and impose sweeping tariffs.

On Saturday, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio struck a noticeably softer tone, stressing in his speech historical and cultural ties and saying the United States and Europe "belong together."

However, he did not back down from underlying US demands that European countries change course on several fronts, including assuming more responsibility for their security. His speech also advanced controversial positions, dismissing climate initiatives as a "climate cult" and criticising Europe's migration policies.

Bernd Lange, chair of the European Parliament's trade committee, described Rubio's speech as a sobering wake-up call. "It was a charm offensive in tone, but a clear rejection of international rules," he warned, arguing that it put national strength and narrow



self-interest front and centre.

Majda Ruge, a senior policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations, echoed this sentiment, calling Rubio's speech simply a "polite version" of Vance's earlier rhetoric.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, speaking after Rubio, did not explicitly name the United States but warned that "the European way of life — our democratic foundation and the trust of our citizens — is being challenged in new ways, on everything from territories to tariffs or tech regulations."

Her remarks were widely seen as a veiled reference to disputes

over digital regulation, US tariffs, and Trump's statements on Greenland, an autonomous territory of Denmark. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz offered an equally stark diagnosis on Friday, saying a "deep divide has opened between Europe and the United States" stressing that Europe "does not believe in tariffs and protectionism, but in free trade." The Munich Security Report 2026 notes that, ironically, the US president — the leader of the country that did more than any other to shape the post-1945 international order — has become one of the most prominent "demolition men."

Under the current Trump administration, the United States is set to withdraw from 66 international organisations, including 31 UN entities and 35 non-UN bodies, after the White House said they "no longer serve American interests." Debate over the future of multilateralism and the international order ran through multiple sessions at the conference.

In his remarks, Rubio said the United Nations (UN) "still has tremendous potential," but argued that on today's most pressing is-

suess, "it has no answers and has played virtually no role." He instead praised US leadership for "problem-solving." European leaders countered that rules and institutions remain indispensable for managing conflict and preventing a slide into raw power politics. One of the most contentious moments came during a panel on the reform and destruction of the international order, where EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas clashed with US Ambassador to the UN Mike Waltz over burden-sharing and the future of multilateral institutions.

After Waltz accused Europe of inaction linked to years of low defence spending, Kallas rejected the charge. "When America goes to wars, a lot of us go with you, and we lose our people on the way. You also need us," she told Waltz. She argued that the UN does need reform to reflect today's realities, but that reform must be grounded in mutual respect and in the principle that "nobody is above the law." Waltz pushed back against the notion of a collapsing world order, portraying the current US administration as pulling the world back from the brink.

Chinese delegates laid out Beijing's vision for global governance at the conference, pledging that China will be a firm contributor to peace, stability and historical progress, and will promote the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said at the MSC that the international situation has become increasingly volatile, warning that the law of the jungle and unilateralism have been rampant. He outlined four suggestions for improving global governance: revitalising the UN system, enhancing global coordination and cooperation, practicing consistent multilateralism, and prioritising a cessation of war to promote peace. (Xinhua)

Conflict

Nigerians urged not to enlist in wars overseas

BY BBC

Nigeria's foreign ministry has issued an urgent warning over what it describes as the increasing illegal recruitment of its citizens to fight in foreign conflicts.

It comes after Ukrainian officials said they found the bodies of two Nigerians who they said were killed in combat last year.

Nigeria has not confirmed those deaths but in a statement on Sunday, foreign ministry spokesperson Kimiebi Imomotimi Ebienufa revealed that "several Nigerians who have fallen victim to such unfortunate situations were deployed to combat zones after being misled and coerced into signing military service contracts". Kenya has issued a similar warning to its citizens.

According to Nigerian officials, investigations and security reports indicate that some nationals were enticed with promises of well-paid employment, security work, educational opportunities or migration incentives, only to find themselves thrust into active war zones.

In some cases, victims were allegedly forced to sign contracts written in foreign languages without proper legal advice, and their travel documents were confiscated upon arrival.

Ebienufa cautioned Nigerians against accepting such offers, emphasising that they not only endanger lives but may also violate Nigerian and international laws concerning mercenary activities and foreign enlistment.

The Nigerian government stated it was working with local and international partners to investigate these cases and enhance public awareness.

Its diplomatic missions abroad have been directed to strengthen consular support and issue advisories to citizens. Ukrainian intelligence estimates that more than 1,400 individuals from 36 African countries have been recruited to fight for Russia. Ukraine itself has previously faced criticism for attempting to recruit foreign nationals, including Africans, to fight on its side.

African governments have increasingly been warning their citizens and working to repatriate those who were deceived into joining the conflict. Last week, South Africa announced that Russian President Vladimir Putin had pledged assistance in returning South African nationals who travelled to Ukraine to join Russian forces.

The European way of life — our democratic foundation and the trust of our citizens — is being challenged in new ways.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen



Business 23.31%

Rise in unremitted pension contributions in the 12 months to June 2025

Kenya eyes May exit from money laundering 'grey list'

BY BRIAN GEORGE

Kenya hopes to be removed from the global financial crimes watchdog's "grey list" by May as it tightens its tools to detect and block illicit money flows.

The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) added Kenya to the list of countries under special scrutiny in February 2024 due to loopholes in countering money laundering and terrorism financing.

Getting off the list could make it easier for capital to enter the country and also benefit companies and households through lower funding costs.

Kenya said it is sharpening its tools to detect money laundering and terrorist financing and aims to have operational anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism committees.

"So everyone should go do their work, we ensure we are out of that grey list by May," Treasury Principal Secretary Chris Kiptoo told delegates at an anti-money laundering reforms forum in Nairobi yesterday.

Under the International Cooperation Review Group process, Kenyan financial institutions and designated businesses are implementing stronger customer due diligence measures, including verification of beneficial ownership and monitoring of high-risk transactions.

Dr Kiptoo further said financial institutions have heightened suspicious transaction reporting, with enhanced mechanisms in place to ensure timely reporting and analysis.

Kenya said that it will deploy an inter-agency coordination approach, which will include the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, Attorney-General's office, and select State departments.

"Under me is the BRS (Business Registration Services). Under me is the Asset Recovery Agency. As you have seen, the Asset Recovery Agency is actually responding and doing a very good job of getting us out of the grey list," AG Dorcas Oduor said.

Business slows down after festive season boom



Shoppers pick out clothes at Gikomba Market in Nairobi on February 15. Traders say business has slowed down significantly following the high sales recorded during the December festive season and the January back-to-school period.

DENNIS ONSONGO | NATION

Diversion Money meant for pensions is put to other uses by State institutions

RBA seeks funding freeze to curb pensions default

Pensions industry regulator also wants the fines and interest imposed raised

BY KEPHA MUIRURI

The Retirement Benefits Authority (RBA) has made new proposals to curb the non-remittance of pension deductions, including higher fines and funding freezes.

The proposals also seek to put the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) at the heart of the collection of the unremitted contributions.

Ministries and State departments risk missing out on funds disbursed by the National Treasury for non-remittance while the RBA has signalled higher penalties as an effective deterrent for the pension defaults.

The push for harsher penalties comes amid a rise in collected but unremitted deductions, which reached a high of Sh72 billion in June 2025.

"The RBA proposes to reinstate

the statutory clearance mechanism whereby sponsors may only access disbursements or statutory funds upon proof of full compliance with remittance obligations to pension schemes," the RBA says in a policy document.

"Empower the authority to enforce direct recovery of unremitted contributions from defaulting sponsors, including by way of garnishee orders," it adds.

The policy changes also seek to anchor the collection of the unremitted contributions as part of the functions of the taxman under the KRA Act. Changes to the Act are expected to allow the taxman to issue agency notices to the holders of unremitted pension deductions and attach the bank accounts of defaulting employers.

RBA seeks to impose personal liability on accounting officers

Sh72bn

Total unremitted pension deductions as of June 2025, according to the Retirement Benefits Authority data

of sponsors for failure to remit, while enhancing penalties and interest provisions.

The management of RBA signalled the tighter screws in September last year, as it attributed the surge in unremitted pension contributions to "indiscipline" in the public sector where funds allocated for salaries and wages are reallocated for other purposes.

Unremitted pension contributions grew by 26.31 per cent to Sh72 billion in 12 months to June 2025 from Sh57 billion in June the previous year as per RBA data. The bulk of the unremitted funds or 98 per cent of the withheld contributions are linked to county governments

and quasi-government institutions, including cash-strapped public universities and sugar millers.

"Yes, the figure has grown, and we agree, it is not that we are not enforcing mechanisms of remittance of the contributions. Why does this happen? It is purely indiscipline because if you look at it from a government point of view, all government agencies have budgets that they prepare on an annual basis," RBA Chief Executive Officer Charles Machira said in a previous interview. "Those budgets are remitted to the National Treasury for approval or through their line ministry."

The penalty for late remittance of pension deductions is currently at the rate of Sh20,000 or 5 per cent of the outstanding amount every month, whichever is higher.

The rise in non-remittance suggests that the fines applicable have failed to deter the vice.

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BRIEFLY

MARKETS

Cinemark admitted as securities dealer in bonds market

The Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) has admitted Cinemark Consult Ltd as an authorised securities dealer in the bonds market. This follows impressive growth, with bond turnover surging 75.5 per cent to Sh2.7 trillion in December 2025. "The admission supports building a more robust fixed-income environment while underscoring the NSE's dedication to developing a dynamic, investor-oriented bond market," said Cinemark CEO Bernard Gichuru. Linet Owoko

ENERGY

Unga eyes power cost cut with shift to biomass fuel

Animal and human food processor Unga Group targets to save about Sh83 million annually after switching from diesel-powered thermal energy to biomass fuel at its plant. "Managing input costs and exposure to foreign exchange volatility has become critical to the long-term sustainability of manufacturing. This transition strengthens cost predictability while reducing reliance on imported fuels," said Fredrick Kinge, Plant Manager, Unga Farm Care. Marion Sitawa

COURTS

Trader wins back gas cylinders after 7-year row

The High Court has ordered Total Kenya to release thousands of gas cylinders it seized from Hunkar Trading Co. Limited, ending a seven-year dispute over unpaid cylinder exchange balances. Total seized 4,425 cylinders belonging to Hunkar in July 2016 as security for an unpaid debt of Sh6.7 million accumulated between 2014 and 2016. The court said creditors cannot indefinitely retain another company's property as leverage. Joseph Wangui

Stocks

NAIROBI SECURITIES EXCHANGE

Last 12 Mths	Security	Prices	Shares
High	Low	Yesterday	Previous

AGRICULTURAL

29.50	10.00	Eaagadis Ord 1.25	29.25	26.85	9.802
440.00	240.00	Kakuzi Plc Ord. 5.00		436.00	76
424.25	81.00	Kapchoruar Tea Kenya Plc Ord	247.00	241.25	1.697
539.00	310.00	The Limuru Tea Co. Ord 20.00	508.00	510.00	539
33.75	13.60	Sasini Ltd Ord 1.00	32.10	30.95	144.655
350.00	120.00	Williamson Tea Kenya Plc Ord 500	144.75	145.00	49.360

AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES

73.50	18.50	Car & General (K) Ord 5.00	72.25	73.75	26.198
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BANKING

30.30	10.00	ABSA Bank Ord 0.50	30.00	29.55	2,432.878
48.00	26.50	BK Group Ord 0.80	46.80	49.90	1,952
170.00	43.05	Diamond Trust Bank Ord 4.00	162.00	160.00	206.074
76.75	33.70	Equity Group Holdings Ord 0.50	75.00	76.75	415.562
11.30	2.80	HF Group Plc Ord 5.00	11.00	10.75	780.760
50.75	15.80	I&M Group Ord 1.00	50.00	49.85	476.450
76.50	15.00	KCB Group Ord 1.00	75.25	75.25	5,589.173
100.00	28.50	NCBA Group Ord 5.00	88.50	89.75	51.881
248.00	90.00	Stanbic Holdings Ord. 5.00	245.25	240.00	614.050
359.75	134.00	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ord. 5.00	331.25	336.75	37.567
30.00	10.10	The Co-op Bank of Kenya Ord 1.00	29.10	29.60	5,839.093

COMMERCIAL & SERVICES

0.45	0.45	Deacons (East Africa) Ord 2.50		0.45	
1.88	0.59	Eveready EA Ord 1.00	1.64	1.67	952.553
10.00	2.70	Express Kenya Ord 5.00	7.84	8.36	95.140
4.66	4.66	Homeboyz Entertainment Plc Ord 0.50		4.66	
9.18	3.30	Kenya Airways Ord 1.00	5.46	5.48	910.348
3.46	2.00	Longhorn Publishers Ord 1.00	3.36	3.28	17,008
5.00	1.37	Nairobi Business Ventures Ord 1.00	1.47	1.47	366.614
22.40	10.60	Nation Media Group Plc Ord. 2.50	14.90	15.70	43.175
21.50	1.80	Sameer Africa Plc Ord. 5.00	20.35	20.25	45.657
10.80	4.50	Standard Group Ord 5.00	6.42	6.40	7.810
18.70	10.85	TPS Eastern Africa Ord 1.00	16.85	17.85	12.617
1.93	0.16	Uchumi Supermarket Ord 5.00	1.36	1.34	1,017,946
3.95	1.80	WPP ScanGroup PLC Ord. 1.00	2.43	2.51	279.421

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	
64.75	29.00	Crown Paints Kenya Ord 0.50	59.00	60.00	8.759
3.27	0.72	E. A. Cables Ord 0.50		1.71	
101.00	4.38	E. A. Portland Cement Ord 5.00	85.50	81.25	7.186

ENERGY & PETROLEUM

10.65	1.94	KenGen Ord 2.50	9.54	9.58	14,762.684
18.60	1.30	KP & LC Co Plc Ord. 250	18.40	18.25	2,553.063
5.00	4.00	KP & LC Plc 4% Pref. 20.00		5.00	
6.00	6.00	KP & LC Plc 7% Pref. 20.00		6.00	
47.00	14.55	TotalEnergies Marketing Kenya Ord 5.00	43.25	42.45	63.680
24.75	6.30	Umeme Ltd Ord 0.50	9.02	8.98	77.820

INSURANCE

12.70	4.01	Britam Holdings Ord 0.10	12.20	11.55	155.733
5.06	1.60	CIC Insurance Group Ord. 1.00	5.98	5.52	2,522.000
360.00	142.00	Jubilee Holdings Ord 5.00	351.50	349.75	1,865
4.02	1.05	Kenya Re Insurance Ord 2.50	3.99	3.66	14,407.373
12.20	3.30	Liberty Kenya Holdings Ord 1.00	10.00	9.98	57.041
11.00	4.00	Sanlam Kenya Ord 5.00	9.00	9.00	44.393

INVESTMENT

16.75	7.60	Centum Investment Co Ord 0.50	14.20	14.20	199.744
1.83	0.27	Home Afrika Ltd Ord. 1.00	1.44	1.38	1,035.803
1,500	1,500	Kurwitu Ventures Ltd Ord. 100.00		1,500.00	2
9.00	1.91	Olympia Capital Holdings Ltd Ord. 5.00	8.24	8.06	11,714
1.78	0.29	Trans-Century Plc Ord. 0.50		1.12	

INVESTMENT SERVICES

25.65	5.22	Nairobi Securities Exchange, Ord 4.00	23.55		23.35	271.159
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MANUFACTURING & ALLIED

144.75	65.00	B.O.C Kenya Group Co. Ord 5.00	136.50	138.50	1,936	
505.00	325.00	British American Tobacco Kenya Ord 10.00	495.25	497.75	30,268	
32.50	11.00	Carbacid Investments Ord 1.00	32.10	32.20	42,974	
351.00	100.00	East African Breweries Ord 1.00	250.00	257.25	56,955	
2.33	0.86	Flame Tree Group Holdings Ord 0.825	1.85		1.80	116.126
102.50	10.40	Africa Mega Agricorp Ord 5.00	97.50		98.75	1,058
0.27	0.27	Mumias Sugar Co. Ord 2.00			0.27	
31.00	12.00	Unga Group Co. Ord 5.00	25.70	24.50	21,397	
8.56	5.90	Shri Krishana Overseas, Plc 0.20	8.22	8.28	1,347	

TELECOMMUNICATION & TECHNOLOGY

34.10	11.50	Safaricom Ltd Ord. 0.05	33.85	33.95	2,235.327
20.00	20.00	Lap trust I-Reit Co. Ord 20 .00		20.00	
6800.00	881.00	Absa New Gold ETF	5995.00	5960.00	197
1050.00	761.00	Satrix MSCI World Feeder ETF	867.00	836.00	127

NSE ALL SHARE INDEX 01st Jan 2008 -100 Dwn 0.74pts - 215.95 NSE 20-Up 38.82pts -3671.94 1st sep 2015-4101.67 Up 29.14pts 5826.27 NSE 20-S-I -30 Aug 2023=1000 Dwn 19.00pts -2233.00 Dwn 1.31 pts to close at 235.81

COMMERCIAL BANK RATES

		Euro	\$	£	C\$	SF	IR	JY	ZR
ABC	buy	152.78	128.80	175.62	94.53	167.36	1.41	84.01	8.04
	sell	153.52	129.20	176.42	94.82	168.10	1.42	84.33	8.12
Absa	buy	152.83	128.90	175.70	94.61	167.58	1.42	84.15	8.08
	sell	153.33	129.10	176.23	95.17	168.28	1.42	84.38	8.11
Co-op	buy	152.36	128.40	174.76	94.25	167.09	1.41	84.00	7.89
	sell	153.73	129.60	176.37	95.12	168.57	1.43	85.00	8.20
Equity	buy	152.76	128.85	175.70	94.56	167.34	-	84.02	8.07
	sell	153.01	129.15	176.00	94.72	167.64	-	84.15	8.09
NBK	buy	152.99	128.80	175.87	94.69	167.77	1.42	84.20	8.09
	sell	153.19	129.20	176.09	94.86	168.12	1.42	84.35	8.11
KCB	buy	152.96	128.80	175.62	94.85	167.29	1.41	84.00	8.11
	sell	153.46	129.20	176.19	95.17	167.86	1.41	84.00	8.13
NCBA	buy	152.80	128.85	175.65	94.60	167.55	1.42	84.08	8.08
	sell	153.10	129.10	176.05	94.80	167.85	1.42	84.22	8.10
Stanbic	buy	152.64	128.73	175.51	94.58	167.62	1.40	84.08	8.08
	sell	153.13	129.13	176.06	94.87	168.14	1.41	84.29	8.19
Prime	buy	152.75	128.80	175.80	94.50	167.30	1.42	84.05	8.05
	sell	153.25	129.35	176.30	95.00	167.30	1.43	84.65	8.25

CBK RATES

	Exchange Rate	Swiss Franc	167.8/8
US Dollar	129.02	100 Japanese Yen	84.22
1 Sterling Pound	175.97	1 Swedish Kroner	14.46
1 Euro	153.07	1 Norwegian Kroner	13.57
South African Rand	8.10	1 Danish Kroner	20.49
Ksh/US\$	27.43	1 Indian Rupee	1.42
Ksh/T\$H	20.07	1 Hongkong Dollar	16.50
Ksh/RWF	11.29	1 Singapore Dollar	102.24
Ksh/BIF	22.91	1 Saudi Riyal	34.40
1 UAE Dirham	35.13	1 Chinese Yuan	18.67
1 Canadian Dollar	94.78	1 Australian Dollar	91.45

UNIT TRUSTS

		Daily Yield	Annual Rate
African Alliance Kenya Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	5.89%	6.05%
African Alliance Kenya Enhanced Fund	Kenya Shilling	7.03%	7.26%
Britam Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	9.49%	9.96%
Britam Money Market Fund	USD	4.58%	4.68%
Madison Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	9.35%	9.80%
Madison Fixed Income Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.66%	11.25%
Gulfcap Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	11.81%	12.47%
Gulfcap Fixed Income Fund	Kenya Shilling	12.61%	13.36%
Gulfcap Shari'ah Fixed Income Fund	Kenya Shilling	6.93%	7.15%
Absa Shilling MMF	Kenya Shilling	7.25%	7.52%
Absa Dollar Fund MMF	USD	4.02%	4.09%
Old Mutual Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	9.62%	10.08%
Old Mutual Dollar Money Market Fund	USD	5.29%	5.41%
Etica Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	9.79%	10.28%
Co-op Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	7.95%	8.27%
Co-op Bond Fund	Kenya Shilling	9.23%	9.67%
Arvocap Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.75%	11.30%
Arvocap Alimasi Fund	Kenya Shilling	1.44	1.45
Mayfair Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	6.73%	6.96%
Mayfair Fixed Income Fund	Kenya Shilling	16.39	16.39
Enwealth Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.34%	10.86%
CIC Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	8.18%	8.49%
CIC Fixed Income Fund	Kenya Shilling	9.22%	9.57%
CIC Dollar Fund	USD	4.69%	4.80%
CIC Equity Fund	Kenya Shilling	9.13	8.90
Equity Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	4.81%	4.92%
Kuza Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	9.91%	10.42%
Kuza Money Market Fund	USD	5.12%	5.25%
Orient Kasha Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	9.40%	9.84%
Jubilee Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	9.94%	10.40%
Jubilee Money Market Fund	USD	5.06%	5.18%
Lofty-Corban Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.31%	10.85%
Lofty-Corban Private Debt Special Fund	Kenya Shilling	14.27%	15.34%
Lofty-Corban Bond Fund	Kenya Shilling	13.22	13.22
Cytonn Money Market	Kenya Shilling	10.89%	11.51%
NCBA Fixed Income Fund	Kenya Shilling	6.75%	6.96%
NCBA Dollar Fixed Income Fund	USD	3.92%	3.99%
ICEA LION Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	7.82%	8.13%
ICEA LION Dollar Fixed Income Fund	USD	108.25	108.25
ICEA LION Fixed Income Fund	Kenya Shilling	126.17	126.17
Britam Equity Fund	Kenya Shilling	144.73	149.77
Britam Special Fixed Income Fund (3 months)	Kenya Shilling	9.29%	9.69%
Britam Special Fixed Income Fund (6 months)	Kenya Shilling	9.31%	9.72%
Britam Special Fixed Income Fund (12 months)	Kenya Shilling	9.48%	9.91%
SanlamAllianz Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	8.90%	9.31%
SanlamAllianz US Dollar Fund	USD	5.05%	5.18%
Apollo Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	8.15%	8.49%
Genghis Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	8.74%	9.13%
GenAfrica Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	9.13%	9.51%
KCB Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	8.93%	9.31%
KCB Money Market Fund	USD	4.07%	4.15%
Nabo Africa Fixed Income Fund	USD	5.84%	6.02%
Nabo Africa Money Market Fund	USD	5.65%	5.81%
Nabo Africa Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.54%	11.11%
Nabo Africa Fixed Income Fund	Kenya Shilling	10.71%	11.75%
Dry Associates Money Market Fund	USD	5.31%	5.44%
Dry Associates Money Market Fund	Kenya Shilling	9.21%	9.61%
Dry Associates Special High Yield Fund	Kenya Shilling	11.25%	12.25%



NYAYO TEA ZONES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

TENDER NOTICE

The Nyayo Tea Zones Development Corporation (NTZDC) is a State Corporation in The Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock Development whose overall mandate is the conservation of gazette forests through creation of buffer zones of tea and trees species to check against human encroachment. The Corporation invites sealed bids from interested eligible bidders for supply, delivery and installation and commissioning of the following item.

NO	TENDER REF. NO.	TENDER DESCRIPTION	Supply / Installation and commissioning site	ELIGIBILITY
1	NTZDC/TN/1/2025/2026	Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of fluid Bed Drier with Cyclones	Gatitu Tea factory Ltd - Kirinyaga County	Open

Tender document detailing terms and conditions can be downloaded from the Nyayo tea Zones Development corporation Website (www.teazones.co.ke), or PPIP Portal www.tenders.go.ke FOR FREE.

Tender documents obtained by interested candidates from NTZDC office will attract a **NON-REFUNDABLE** fee of Kenya shillings **One Thousands (Kshs. 1,000)**. Payment can be made in cash or Bankers cheque payable to Nyayo Tea Zones Development Corporation.

Applications shall be submitted in clearly marked plain sealed envelope indicating the tender number for the tender and be deposited in the tender box at Nyayo Tea Zones Offices, Nyayo House 11th floor, or send to the address below on or before **12 noon on 3rd March 2026**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
NYAYO TEA ZONES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,
P. O. BOX 48552, NAIROBI.
TEL: 315650-7,**

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
GOVERNMENT OF MAKUENI COUNTY
MAKUENI COUNTY REFERRAL HOSPITAL
P.O. BOX 95-90300 MAKUENI
Telephone 044 - 33175/95
Email- makueni.referral@makueni.go.ke
Mobile - 074116657

**PUBLIC NOTICE
UNCLAIMED BODIES**

Makueni County Referral Hospital mortuary has eleven (11) unclaimed bodies.

Pursuant to **Public Health Act Cap 242 (Subsidiary Legislation PUBLIC HEALTH (PUBLIC MORTUARIES) RULES, 1991)**, any unclaimed body which has overstayed for more than 6 months the necessary procedures should be applied for the disposal of the same in the public cemetery.

The hospital will dispose the bodies within 14 days from the date of this notice.

**Makueni County Referral Hospital
FARE WELL HOME**

TWA
TRADE WIDE AUCTIONEERS
(LICENSED CLASS B)
AUCTIONEERS, REPOSSESSORS, COURT BROKERS & GENERAL COMMISSION AGENTS
P.O Box 16021-00100, Nairobi, Blessed Hse - Ngara, 2nd flr, Rm 3.
TEL: 0739 945 008/0718217797 | Email: tradewideauctioneers@gmail.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our principals we shall sell the following goods on **25/02/2026** at **10:30 am** at **Auto Gallery, Westlands-Waiyaki Way.**

LANDLORD VS PHYLLIS NDERI.
1 BLUE CABINET, TWO METAL TROLLEY, 1 WHEEL CHAIR, 7 METALLIC HOSPITAL BED (GREEN), 5 MATTRESSES AND 4 METAL STANDS, 1 BLACK METAL HOSPITAL BED, 9 BLUE CABINETS, 1 SCAN LIGHT, ARMO ELECTRIC HEATER, 7 WHITE HOSPITAL BED + MATTRESSES, 1 METAL CHAIR AND 1 METAL TROLLEY, COMPRESSOR NEBULIZER, LG SINGLE DOOR FRIDGE, 4 DRAWER FILLING CABINET, 1 OXYGEN CYLINDER + 1 TROLLEY, 2 LEATHER OFFICE CHAIRS, 1 BLUE CABINET, AND OTHERS.

LANDLORD VS SYLVESTER MANGO
6 SEATER BROWN SOFASETS + 1 PUFF BED, 1 WOODEN SHOE RACK, 1 WOODEN BROWN TABLE, 2 SEATER GREY SOFASET, AND OTHERS.

LANDLORD VS EUNICE KAGENDO.
1 GLASS COFFEE TABLE, 2 SEATER SOFASETS, 2 ROUND DINNING TABLE, 8 SEATER RECLINER CHAIRS, AND OTHERS.

LANDLORD VS MERCY WAIRIMU
GLASS DINNING TABLE, 1 FLOOR CARPET, 5 SEATER RECLINER SEAT, SAYONA SUB WOOFER + 3 SPEAKERS, AND OTHERS

LANDLORD VS KEVIN MASINDE
1 SAMSUNG 32" INCHES T.V

LANDLORD VS DAVID MWANIKI
3 SEATER SOFASET, WOODEN TABLE, WASHING MACHINE (LG), DEEP FREEZER, (ROCH), HISENSE 32" INCHES AND OTHERS.

LANDLORD VS JACK WALKER
SEAGAS 6 KGS CYLINDER

LANDLORD VS FRANCIS INSENO
6 KGS GAS CYLINDER

LANDLORD VS AMRAH MOHAMMED
SAMSUNG 32" T.V, OLA ENERGY 13 KGS GAS CYLINDER

LANDLORD VS ESTHER KATSUNA KAHINDE
GALANA GAS CYLINDER (6KG)

CONDITIONS OF SALE
• Strictly cash at the fall of the hammer

COLINET AUCTIONEERS

Auctioneers, Private Investigators, Court process Servers, Debt Collectors and General Commission Agents
Milimani Estate, Ring Road Opposite Pandipieri Catholic Centre, P.O Box 3004(40100) Kisumu, Kenya
Tel: 0202021209 Cell: +254722 381 089/733 381 089 | Email: colinetauctions2013@gmail.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

PRIME RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY IN KONYA AREA OFF KISUMU-KAKAMEGA ROAD IN KISUMU TOWN.

ON FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2026 STARTING AT 12.00 NOON AT THE CENTRAL SQUARE OPPOSITE ABSA BANK IN KISUMU TOWN.

ALL THAT PARCEL OF LAND KNOWN AS KISUMU/ KONYA/ 5375 REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF GEORGE SOLOMON ORIA ONG'UDI G/T STRATEGIC OUTCOME CONSULTANTS LIMITED P.O. BOX 19655 - 40123 KISUMU.



The property is situated approximately 105m off the Kisumu - Kakamega highway within the immediate neighbourhood of Kisumu Specialist Hospital and our Lady of Grace School and Chapel in Kajulu East ward, Kisumu East Constituency in Kisumu County. It measures approximately **0.15Ha or 0.3707Acres**. Developed on the plot is a residential maisonette comprising of a living room with lounge area, a guest bedroom on the ground floor, kitchen fitted with double stainless sink unit, granite worktops, high and low level cabinets and a pantry. On the first floor are a master ensuite bedroom fitted with walkin closets, a third ensuite bedroom with inbuilt wardrobes, a study room and a family/TV room. The title is freehold interest.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

- All intending purchasers are requested to view the property and verify the details as these are not warranted by the auctioneer or client.
- A deposit of **10%** must be paid in cash or bankers cheque at the fall of the hammer. The balance will thereafter be payable to the chargee within **Ninety (90) Days** from the date of sale.
- The sale is subject to a Reserve Price and Land Control Board Consent (where applicable).
- Conditions of Sale are available on request at our offices and viewing of the property is possible during normal working hours by prior arrangement with us.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

nation@daily.com

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
IN THE ENVIRONMENT AND LAND COURT OF KENYA AT KAJIADO
ELC NO. E013 OF 2025(O.S)
IN THE MATTER OF LIMITATION OF ACTIONS ACT, CAP 22
AND
IN THE MATTER OF A CLAIM FOR ADVERSE POSSESSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 38 OF LIMITATIONS OF ACTIONS ACT
AND
IN THE MATTER OF TITLE NUMBERS KAJIADO/ KISAJU/13652, 13653, 13654, 13655, 13656, 13657, 13658 AND 13659 BEING SUBDIVISIONS OF TITLE NUMBER KAJIADO/ KISAJU/13441
BETWEEN
JONATHAN KARIONKI TAYIAI.....APPLICANT
VERSUS
ALEX SUYIANKA OLE LETEIPAN
JOYCE NAIREISIAE MOHAMED KIMOJINO
CHARLES OBADIAH SALAPEI LETEIPAN
DAVE NOAH SITONI LETEIPAN (Sued as the Personal Representatives and Administrators of the Estate of SARAH NASEL LETEIPAN alias SARAH NASIEKU LETEIPAN).....1ST RESPONDENT
DAVE NOAH SITONI LETEIPAN.....2ND RESPONDENT
PAULINE SOINTA LETEIPAN.....3RD RESPONDENT
JOYCE NAIREISIAE MOHAMED KIMOJINO.....4TH RESPONDENT
ALEX SUYIANKA OLE LETEIPAN.....5TH RESPONDENT
PAUL SARONE EDWIN LETEIPAN.....6TH RESPONDENT
JANE SILANTOI LESIEW.....7TH RESPONDENT
CHARLES OBADIAH SALAPEI LETEIPAN.....8TH RESPONDENT
LUCY ANNE NASHILU LETEIPAN.....9TH RESPONDENT
QUEEN CREEK CAPITAL HOLDINGS LIMITED.....10TH RESPONDENT

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE BY ADVERTISEMENT
(ORDER 5 RULE 17 OF CIVIL PROCEDURE RULES, 2010)

- TO:
- ALEX SUYIANKA OLE LETEIPAN, JOYCE NAIREISIAE MOHAMED KIMOJINO, CHARLES OBADIAH SALAPEI LETEIPAN, DAVE NOAH SITONI LETEIPAN (Sued as the Personal Representatives and Administrators of the Estate of SARAH NASEL LETEIPAN alias SARAH NASIEKU LETEIPAN)
 - DAVE NOAH SITONI LETEIPAN
 - PAULINE SOINTA LETEIPAN
 - JOYCE NAIREISIAE MOHAMED KIMOJINO
 - ALEX SUYIANKA OLE LETEIPAN
 - PAUL SARONE EDWIN LETEIPAN
 - JANE SILANTOI LESIEW
 - CHARLES OBADIAH SALAPEI LETEIPAN
 - LUCY ANNE NASHILU LETEIPAN

TAKE NOTICE that Originating Summons and a Notice of Motion under Certificate of Urgency have been filed in the Environment and Land Court at Kajiado in KAJIADO ELC(O.S) NO. E013 OF 2025; JONATHAN KARIONKI TAYIAI =VS= ALEX SUYIANKA OLE LETEIPAN & 9 OTHERS, in which you are named as the Respondents. Service of the Originating Summons, Supporting Affidavit, Certificate of Urgency, Notice of Motion and Supporting Affidavit all dated 23rd September, 2025 on yourselves have been ordered by means of this advertisement by Hon. Justice M.D. Mwangi on 3rd February, 2026. A copy of the aforementioned documents may be obtained from the Environment and Land Court at Kajiado, P.O. Box 73 Kajiado or the Applicant's Advocates chambers whose physical address is Tobiko, Njoroge & Co. Advocates, View Park Towers, Monrovia Street/Utalii Lane, 11th Floor, Wing C, Tel: 0715800338, Email: info@tobikonjorogeadvocates.co.ke, P.O. Box 35260-00200, Nairobi.

FURTHER TAKE NOTICE, that the case has been scheduled for directions on 4th May, 2026 and unless you enter an appearance within 15 days from the date of this advertisement, directions will be issued and the case will be heard your absence notwithstanding.

DATED at NAIROBI this 3rd day of February, 2026

Tobiko Njoroge & Co.
Advocates for the Applicant.

Drawn By:-
Tobiko Njoroge & Co. Advocates,
View Park Towers, 11th Floor, Wing C, Monrovia Street/Utalii Lane,
Tel: 0715800338, | E-mail: info@tobikonjorogeadvocates.co.ke
P.O Box 35260-00200, NAIROBI.

WATT'S AUCTIONS
Licensed Auctioneers class "B", Registrars,
Commission Agents and Private Investigators
Branch
New Cannon Towers
3rd Floor
Tel: 020 - 2217173 / 2215647
Mobile: +254 722 732 717
Wireless: 0779 947 405
Mombasa, Kenya
Email: info@wattsauctions.co.ke or
wattsauctions16@gmail.com
Nairobi, Kenya. Website: www.wattsauctions.co.ke

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions received from our principal the chargees in exercise of their statutory power of sale we shall sell the under mentioned properties by public auction.

1. ON THURSDAY 5TH MARCH 2026 AT 11.00 AM IN OUR NAIROBI OFFICES AT VIEW PARK TOWERS, 9TH FLOOR - NAIROBI CITY COUNTY.

PALATIAL HOME/RESIDENCE UNDER CONSTRUCTION - KAREN NAIROBI COUNTY.

All that leasehold parcel of land known as **L.R.NO:NAIROBI/BLOCK 149 /1205 - NAIROBI CITY COUNTY**, the property is situated in Karen area within Nairobi City County, It is about 15.1 kilometres to the south- west to Nairobi CBD through Langata road. Then branch off from the latter is to the right at Liberty Centre Shopping mall of Rasulil Akram Mosque and Madarasa onto Kuwindia road for about 1.6 kilometres First Love Kenya Children's home is in the immediate neighbourhood. measuring **0.2314 Ha (0.5718 acres)** approximately and registered in the name of **NIKESH POPATLAL SHAH AND BHAVINI NIKESH SHAH P.O. BOX 41761-00100 NAIROBI GUARANTOR TO VIBHUTI HARDWARE LIMITED P.O. BOX 78388-00507 NAIROBI** It is developed with **GATE HOUSE** which is 55% complete. The main house is **50%** complete. This is a palatial property when complete and suitable for high end homestead. The property can easily be found using these **google coordinates: -1.327972, 36.746500.**

2. ON FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2026 AT 11.00 AM IN OUR NAIROBI OFFICES AT VIEW PARK TOWERS - NAIROBI CITY COUNTY.

VACANT RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES WITHIN AIRSTRIP AREA - BUSIA COUNTY.

All that freehold parcels of land known as **TITLE NOS: SOUTH TESO/ ANGOROMO/5045 AND 5422 BUSIA AIRSTRIP AREA - BUSIA COUNTY, 5045** is situated within Airstrip area of Busia Town, Busia County the properties it lies about 500 metres due north of Airstrip and 650 metres due north of Mulembe International Hotel while **TITLE NO: SOUTH TESO/ANGOROMO/5422** is situated within the Ojarii Estate of Busia Town, measuring **0.15 Ha (0.371 of an acre)** approximately while **5422** measures **0.05 Ha (0.124 of an acre)** approximately and both registered in the names of **CARNICIUS JACKSON MESOH OF P.O. BOX 10068-00100 NAIROBI GUARANTOR TO MESOHLINK LIMITED.** These are vacant plots which are ideal for residential development. The plots can be easily found on these **google coordinates: 0° 27' 28.04" N, 34° 8' 2.87" E & 0° 27' 51.38" N, 34° 7' 2.73" E.**

CONDITIONS OF SALE

- All interested purchasers are requested to view the properties and verify the details for themselves as the auctioneers or the Chargees do not warrant these.
- A deposit of at least **10% (per cent)** must be paid in **CASH OR BANKER'S CHEQUE** at the fall of the hammer and the balance to be paid within **90 days** to the chargees.
- Sale is subject to a reserve price, the necessary Land Control Board Consent (if applicable) and such overriding interests as may exist against the properties.
- Interested purchasers are requested to view the properties between 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. and our **Mr. Macharia 0722-732717** will assist the buyers to point out the properties subject to prior arrangement.

NB: Bidders to pay refundable deposit of Kshs.500,000/- in banker's cheque to obtain bid Number.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
IN THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE'S COURT
AT BUNGOMA
CIVIL CASE NO.E265 OF 2025
MODE OF TRACK - FAST TRACK

Alice Nasimiyi Ikanda..... PLAINTIFF
=VERSUS=

1. IWAKI TRADING LIMITED
2. SAVIOOR MABALE..... DEFENDANTS

**SUBSTITUTED SERVICE
PURSUANT TO COURT ORDER ISSUED ON 3/2/2025**

TAKE NOTICE that the 1st Defendant herein has **15 Days** to both enter Appearance and file Defence from the date of this Advertisement, and in default Judgment will be entered against them.

Summons to enter Appearance and Plaintiff can be obtained from the Court registry and also from **M/S OMUNDI BW'ONCHIRI ADVOCATES.**

DRAWN & FILED BY:
Omundi Bw' Onchiri Advocates,
At Teachers Sacco Plaza,
3rd Floor, Room No.125,
P.O. Box 1971-50200, BUNGOMA. | OUR REF: **OJ CIVIL NO. 3647.25**
EMAIL: omundibw'onchiri@gmail.com | Cellphone No. **0727-536738/0799-736805**

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Mega Mall, 2nd Floor opposite NHIF
Tel: 0719 038 988

Royal Towers, 1st Floor Tel: 0719 038 924

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0719-038-950/1

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NAIROBI & UP COUNTRY

PERSONAL NOTICES

A109 Lost

LOSS of original lease LR 137326

LOSS of original Title for LR. No. 1098/320 Nyeri Mhasibu Investment Co. Ltd

LOSS of title deed Laikipia/Kinamba block 1/3607 (Mwenje)

LOSS of Title Kwale/ Diani/ 3213 and Kwale/ Diani/ 3214 of John Mwaure Mbugua

LOSS of title Thika / Munyu 5842

LOST LR NO Kajiado/Ntarshart/ 7608.

LOST Passport No. A16172882

LOST Title: Cherangany/Kapcherop/ I 155 Of William Kipkorir Kanda

LOST title deed Gikondi/ Kiirungi/ 994 of Gichuki Wambugu

LOST title deed Makuyu/ Kariaini/ block 1/823 Pauline Muthoni Gichuki

LOST Title: E/Wanga/Lubinu/6486

LOST title:Nairobi/12672/122.

LOST title:Nanyuki Marura Blk III/2971 (Sweet waters) of Jackson Ndung'u Mwhuri

LOST title no. Timau/Timau block 6 Antu Bamwitu/597 & Nanyuki Marura block 12/4704

LOST title: Timau/Timau Blk7/34of Thomas Kinoti John

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 USER

The Registered owner(s) of Plot No. **LOC.20/ KAMBIRWA/10207**, is proposing to Extend Use of the property to include **A Telecommunication (GSM Base Station)**, subject to approval by the County Government of Murang'a. 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 - Lands, Physical Planning & Urban Development, Murang'a County, P.O. Box 52-10200, Murang'a. Reg. Planner: Plan. Peter Kaberere | Reg. No. PP0287.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

IN THE ENVIRONMENT AND LAND COURT AT NAIROBI

ELC (OS) NO. E272 OF 2025

ELIZABETH WAMBUI MUTHIGANI.....APPLICANT

-VERSUS- ANTHONY PETER ODWORI OKUMU.....RESPONDENT

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE BY ADVERTISEMENT

TO: - ANTHONY PETER ODWORI OKUMU

TAKE NOTICE that the above suit has been filed against you. Service of the Originating Summons has been ordered to be effected upon you through this advertisement. Copies of the said pleadings may be obtained from the Court registry, the e filing portal or from the Chambers of the Applicant's Advocates at the address given hereunder. **TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that unless you enter appearance in the suit within 15 days from the date of this advertisement and thereafter file your response to the suit, then the matter shall be heard and judgment given your absence notwithstanding. **TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the suit has been fixed for **MENTION** on **25th March, 2026**, and unless you appear for the mention and make your representations then such orders/ directions will be given by the court as it shall see fit. **DATED AT NAIROBI** this 16th day of February 2026.

KAGONGONA AND COMPANY ADVOCATES FOR THE APPLICANT
DRAWN AND FILED BY:- Kagongona & Co. Advocates
Commerce House, Moi Avenue
P.O Box 46905-00100
NAIROBI
Email: kagongonalaw@gmail.com
Tel: 0716369177

A279 Notices

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

IN THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE'S COURT AT NAIROBI

CMCC NO. E565 OF 2025

ESHNEPHYL LIMITED..... PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

AKAMBA FM LIMITED..... 1st DEFENDANT

WASP RADIO SERVICES LIMITED..... 2nd DEFENDANT

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE BY WAY OF ADVERTISEMENT PURSUANT TO LEAVE GRANTED BY COURT ON 11th NOVEMBER 2025

(Pursuant to Order 5 rule 17(1) and (2) of the Civil Procedure Rules 2010)

TO: 1. AKAMBA FM LIMITED

2. WASP RADIO SERVICES LIMITED

TAKE NOTICE that a case (CMCC No E565 of 2025) has been filed at the Chief Magistrate's Court at Nairobi in which you are named as the 1st and 2nd Defendants respectively. Service of all the Pleadings in this case upon yourselves has been ordered by means of this advertisement. Copies of the Pleadings in this case (CMCC No E565 of 2025) may be obtained from the Chief Magistrate's Court at Nairobi or from the offices of M/S Kambi-Gitura & Company Advocates, Apt. 13 Lower Hill Duplex, Upper Hill Road, P.O. Box 45834-00100, NAIROBI. Email: law@kambi-gituraadv.com, Tel: (020)-2454323.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that unless you enter appearance and file a response from the date of this advertisement this matter will proceed without further reference to yourselves and your absence notwithstanding. **TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that this case has been fixed for mention at the Chief Magistrate's Court at Nairobi on **4th March 2026 at 9 a.m** requiring attendance by yourselves or someone duly authorized to appear for you. **TAKE NOTICE** that in default, proceedings will be taken on the said date your absence notwithstanding.

DATED AT NAIROBI this day of 2026.

KEMBI-GITURA & COMPANY ADVOCATES FOR THE PLAINTIFF

DRAWN AND FILED BY:-

KEMBI-GITURA & COMPANY ADVOCATES

APT 13, LOWER HILL DUPLEX, UPPER HILL ROAD

P.O. BOX 45834-00100, NAIROBI.

Email: law@kambi-gituraadv.com

Tel: (020) 2454323, 071179401

PUBLIC NOTICE

Physical & Land Use Planning Act No. 13 of 2019

EXTENSION OF USER

The Registered owner (s) of the existing (MAIRO IKUMI COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL) - PDP NO. NYA/ C1174/00/1 MAIRO IKUMI, situated within Mairo Ikumi Area, is proposing to extend use of the Property to include **A Telecommunication GSM Site** subject to approval by the County Government of Nyandarua. 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 and Urban Development, County Government of Nyandarua, P.O. Box 701-20303, Ol'Kalou.

(PLUPA 2019)

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF USE.

The registered owner(s) of KSM/OJOLA/5851 & 2493 (AMALGAMATED) off Kisian Road, Kanyawegi. Wishes to Change the use from agricultural to multi dwelling units cum commercial (water bottling and auxiliaries). Subject to approval of County Government of Kisumu. Individuals with comments or objections to forward them within **fourteen days (14)**. Citing grounds of objection. **CECM Lands Physical Planning & Urban Development**
P. O. Box 2378-4010 Kisumu

PUBLIC NOTICE

Physical & Land Use Planning Act No. 13 of 2019

CHANGE OF USE

The registered owner of LR. No. 4476/583 & 4476/584 located in Maseno off Kisumu-Boisa road next to Maseno girls boarding within Kisumu West wishes to Amalgamate and Change the Use from Residential (Single Dwelling) to Institutional (Church) subject to the approval of the County Government of Kisumu. Individuals, Institutions, etc with objections to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within (14) days from the date of this notice to: **The CECM - Department of Lands, Urban Planning & Housing, County Government of Kisumu, P.O. Box 81599-80100, Kisumu.** Reg. Planner: Dr. Fredrick Owino | Reg. No. 0123



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A279 Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

Physical & Land Use Planning Act No. 13 of 2019

NOTIFICATION FOR CHANGE OF USE

The registered owner of land parcel no. **DONYO SABUK/KOMAROCK BLOCK 1/16180** located at Malaa area within Matungu Sub County proposes to change it use from **Agricultural to Commercial** subject to approval by the County Government of Machakos. Any individual, institutions/organization or members of the public etc. with comments and/or objection to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within **fourteen (14) days** of this notice to: **The County Executive Committee Member (CECM) Land, Physical Planning, Housing, Urban Development & Energy, Machakos County Government, P.O. BOX 1996-90100 Machakos.**

FORM PLUPA/DC/3 (n.3)(3)(xi)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Physical & Land Use Planning Act No. 13 of 2019

CHANGE OF USE

The Owner of Lr No. 8783/5 situated off Mutungoni Road in Athi River Area proposes to change the use of the parcel from **Residential 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

MISSING PERSON

FULL NAME: Mrs Agnes Njoki Njuguna
AGE: 52 years old
RESIDENT: Kahawa
COUNTY: Nairobi
SUB-COUNTY: Kasarani
DATE OF MARRIAGE: 30/04/2016
OCCUPATION: Hairdresser
LAST SEEN: In Nairobi 2016
CONTACT: 0719038147

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P.O. Box 13439-00800 Nairobi, Tel: 0722 264 694 / 0780 264 694 Email: beyondvisionauctioneers@gmail.com

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by the chargee, we shall sell the under mentioned property by public auction.

ON FRIDAY 6th MARCH 2026 AT OUR OFFICE - GITHINJI INVESTMENTS HOUSE 5th FLOOR, SUITE 501, CHAMBERS ROAD-FIG TREE NGARA NAIROBI AT 11:00AM

All that parcel of land known as **TITLE NUMBER: NYANDARUA/MAWINGO/4121, MAWINGO AREA, KIPIPIRI SUBCOUNTY, NYANDARUA COUNTY** measuring approximately **1.82Ha** or thereabouts, (approximately **4.50 Acres**). The property is situated about 750 metres off and to the left of Engineer -Kipipiri -Ol Kalou road deviating onto a road about 800 metres before reaching St.Peters Mawingo Secondary School. It lies about 880 metres to the South West of the said school. The property lies within GPS Coordinates [-0.49205556,36.50886111]. It is registered in the name of **JOSEPH MAINA NJOGU**. The property is not developed

CONDITIONS OF SALE

- All interested purchasers are requested to view the property and verify all the details as these are not warranted by the auctioneer.
- The interested purchasers will be required to pay a refundable **deposit of Kshs.100,000/- by cash or banker's cheque in the name of Beyond Vision Auctioneers** to obtain a bid number which will serve as an entry pass to the auction venue.
- The successful bidder **MUST pay 25%** of the purchase price at the fall of the hammer and the balance to be paid off within **90days**.
- Sale subject to reserve price.

ALL ARE WELCOME

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www.westminster.co.ke

Class B Auctioneers, Court Brokers & Bailiffs, Repossessors and Commission Agents

PUBLIC AUCTION

Duly instructed by our principals (the financiers) we shall sell by public auction the under mentioned vehicle on Wednesday, 25th February 2026 starting from 11:00 am at our offices, Ngara Flats, Suite No. 2, 1st Floor, Ngara road, Nairobi.

NO.	REG NO	MAKE/MODEL	YOM	YARD STORED
1.	KDR 682G	TOYOTA HARRIER ZSU60 S. WAGON	2017	AUCTION PALACE, KIAMBU ROAD.

VIEWING CAN BE DONE AT THE YARD DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

- A refundable deposit of Kshs. 100,000/= to be paid at our office to obtain a bidding number
- The highest approved bidder at the fall of the hammer shall be declared purchaser and shall be required to immediately deposit 25% of the purchase price in cash or bankers cheque and the balance within 7 days from the date of auction.
- Other terms and conditions available on our catalogue

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the Public of the **Change of Name** of the Organization from **Jabali Student Fund Kenya, to Nacka Africa Foundation**

PUBLIC NOTICE

PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT No. 13 of 2019

EXTENSION OF USER

The Registered owner (s) of Title No: Nyaki/Giaki/115, situated within Kirima Itune Area, is proposing to extend use of the Property to include a Telecommunication GSM Site subject to approval by the County Government of Meru. 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 and Urban Development, County Government of Meru, P.O Box 120-60200, Meru**

SITUATIONS VACANT

B250 General

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MEMBLEY 100x50 11m 0738137908

NGARA Fig Tree one acre land for sale 400M neg. 0722998297

PESI Ndaragwa 3/4Ac 0734000612

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B782 Properties for Sale

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Nation Media Group

In Loving Memory

On this first anniversary of your untimely departure from the earth, our hearts are still heavy, our eyes are yet to dry up.

We are however encouraged by the firm belief that you and your dear daughter Dr. Angela Mocheche Masore are rejoicing with the Angels and Saints in the glory of our living God.

Your teaching and example of love, joy, family and faith in God still holds us together as we forever remember and uphold the ethics you instilled in us.

Continue resting our dear wife and mum, till we meet in God's kingdom.

Fondly remembered & loved by Leo, Vini, Nina, Alex & Greg.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

Revelation 21:4

Rose Obonyo Masore
30 Dec. 1963 - 16 Feb. 2025



Death and Funeral Announcement

In humble acceptance to God's will, we announce the death of John Kariuki Gakui (Wamithi).

He was the son of the late Gakui Ndunyu and the late Wandia Gakui.

He was brother of the late Nderitu Gakui, the late Munyua Gakui, the late Kabui Githinji, Gathoni Weru, the late Munyi Gakui and the late Benson Nyuguto.

He was step brother of the late Wamwatha Nchoko, the late Njugu Kimari, Muraguri Gakui, Nyaguthii Kihia, Nyokabi Muriuki and the late Theuri Gakui.

He was husband of the late Elizabeth Wambui Kariuki. He was father of Mercy Wandia, Peterson Wachira, Rev Stephen Kariuki, Charles Nderitu, Jane Wanjiku, Mary Wanja, Kenneth Gikandi and Joan Wanjiru.

He is was a grandfather and great grandfather to many.

The cortege will leave St Michael Funeral Home, on Thursday 19th February 2026 Mathari at 9:00 am for burial at his home in Kianjogu Village Kirimukuyu Location, Mathira West Sub County Nyeri County, starting 10:00am.

John Kariuki Gakui (Wamithi)



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Death and Funeral Announcement

It is with profound sorrow and humble acceptance of God's will, that we announce the passing of our beloved colleague, Mr. Rawlings Ojijo Abiero.

Rawlings was an employee of Juhudi Kilimo up until Monday, 2nd February 2026, when he passed on at Busia Referral Hospital.

He was the beloved husband of Idda Hellen Awuor. He was a loving and caring father of Eugene Leone Omondi, Bourne Sheldon Ochieng and Nelson Ryan Abiero. Rawlings was the 2nd born to the late Samuel Ombuor, the late Phoebe Abiero and Rose Abiero. He was a son-in-law of Nelson Adeny Jonyo and Elizabeth Jonyo.

Rawlings was a cherished brother of Marsden, Emily, Fred, Austine, Robert, Belinda, Mike, Hillary, Lucy, Davies and Susan. He was also an uncle, a cousin, an in-law and a friend to many who will dearly miss his laughter and the joy he brought them.

The cortege leaves Siloam Funeral Home on Thursday, 19th February, 2026 for a funeral service at Sunrise SDA Church, Kericho. Thereafter, we will proceed home for a night vigil in Kendu Bay. Rawlings will be laid to rest on Friday, 20th February, 2026 at his parents' home in Waumi Village, Kendu Bay.

Rawlings Ojijo Abiero

We shall forever treasure the moments we shared with Rawlings and we pray that God grants eternal peace to his soul.



Celebrating The Life Of

It is with humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the death of Rose Muthoki Kisini of Nairobi City County, which occurred on 4th February 2026, at Kenyatta Prime Care Center after a long illness.

Daughter of Jackson Kisini and Elizabeth Kavenge Kisini of Mung'eli Village, Mbooni Sub-county, Makueni County. Loving and cherished mother of Jackson Mulatya Kisini and Elizabeth Mwendu Kisini.

Mother in law of Peninah Jackson.

Doting and loving grandmother of Ian Mwendwa, Rose Mwendu and Mirabelle Muthoki.

Sister of the late Charles Mwathi, Eunice Ndongwa, the late Onesmus Nyamai, Felix Mwololo and Hellen Mbirya.

Aunt and cousin to many.

There will be a fundraising event on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at Gateway mall starting 5:00 pm.


The cortege leaves Monsezuma Funeral Home, Machakos, on Saturday, 21st February 2026, at 9:00am for the Funeral Service at Yatwa Primary School grounds, at 10:00am. Thereafter the burial will take place at her home in Mung'eli Village, Mbooni, Makueni.

Rose Muthoki Kisini

Mummy, your love lives on in us. Your voice echoes in our hearts. Your sacrifices will never be forgotten. We love you, Mummy! We miss you deeply!

Rest easy. Rest well until we meet again! Good night!

2 Timothy 4:7 - "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."



Death and Funeral Announcement

It is with heavy hearts and humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the death of Samuel Mwangi Macharia (Bi-Mach Engineers Ltd) which occurred at Coptic Hospital on Thursday 12th February 2026. He hailed from Kariua Village in Kandara.

He is son of the late Peter Macharia Mbera and the late Mary Wambui Macharia.

Brother of Hannah Njoroge and late Ryan Njoroge, late Engineer James Mbera and Violet Wairimu, late Catherine Macharia, Esther Kagia and Ngugi Kagia, Lydia Wanjiru and John Mwaniki.

Beloved husband of Lydia Mukonyo Mwangi. Loving father of Rosemary Wambui, Vivian Mumbi, David Kitheka, Eric Mwangi and Caroline Wanjeru.

Doting grandfather of Jeremiah Mutiso, Justin Mwangi, Zara Mukonyo, Elaine Mukonyo, Aria Muthoni and Amani Wambui.

Son in law of late Edward Maina Kara and late Kelee Mumbi Maina.


Family and friends are meeting on Tuesday 17th & Wednesday 18th February 2026 at St. Andrews Church Old Chapel from 5:00pm.

The cortege will leave Lee funeral home on Friday 20th February 2026, at 7:00am. The funeral service will be held at St Andrew's Church from 9:00am. Thereafter proceed for burial at his family home in Kenol, Kagia Road Murang'a County at 2:00pm.

Samuel Mwangi Macharia
Sunrise: 1952
Sunset: 2026

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

We loved you so much. May your legacy shine on.



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Nation Media Group

Death and Funeral Announcement

We, the family of the late Martin Makau Kavila, regret to announce the untimely passing of Agnes Makau, which occurred on 9th February 2026.



Agnes Makau

Agnes was the beloved wife of the late Martin Makau Kavila and a devoted mother of the late Joshua Musau, Job Muteti, Joe Musyoki, and the late Sarah Mwikali Mwangi.

She was a cherished daughter of the late Nashon Kaswii and the late Dorcas Mutave, and a loving sister of the late James Mwanza, Vili Kaswii, David Mutyetu, Joseph Musyoki, the late Noah Kaswii, and Jonah Kaswii.

Family, friends, and members of the community are meeting daily at her home in Utaati for prayers and fellowship. The cortege will leave Pamoja Funeral Home, Wote, on 20th February 2026 for prayers and the burial ceremony on the same day. The burial will take place at her home in Utaati, Ukiya Location, Kaiti Constituency, Makeni County from 10:00 a.m.

Agnes was a pillar of strength, love, and unity in her family and community. Her kindness, wisdom, and gentle spirit touched many lives and will forever remain etched in our hearts. Though she has departed from this world, her legacy of love and resilience lives on through her children, grandchildren, and all who were privileged to know her. Rest in eternal peace, our matriarch.

Death and Funeral Announcement

It is with deep sorrow and humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the death of Captain Lawton Thomas Kombo of the Kenya Defence Forces. Son of Mr Phillip Kombo Mwendar, Linah Ngetsa and Janet Manena. Father of Tremaine Collins Kombo and Salome Mbeyu Kombo. Brother of Ian Matano Kombo, Brian Matano, Thomas Lawton Kombo and Dorcus Gombe Kombo. Nephew of Salome Mbeyu Mwendar, the late Stanley Renson and the late Grace Ngele, William and Margaret Mwendar, the late Samuel Chone, Michael and Lilyet Mgandi, Robert and Teresia Mazuri, the late Thomas Ngala, Betty and Festus Magogo, the late Sarah Ngetsa, Naomi Ngetsa, Willy and Josephine Ngetsa and others. Cousin of Dr Melba and Dr Aubrey Wasunna, Robert and Elizabeth Matano, Thomas Gift Kombo I, Thomas Kombo J, Alma and Ezekiel Changawa, Thomas Kombo 4, Salome Mbeyu, Robert Scott, George and Fiona, Moses Gandi, Joe Kitau Ronnie Musimi, Maryam and Dwayne, Alma Binti, Hans Gandi, Jayden Ngala, Adrian Sisi Gandi, Abigael Gandi, Festus Magogo, Betty Laura Gandi, the Kupata and Dzame family, the Ngetsa, the Mzerera, and the Salsa Families. He was an uncle of Betty Nzara, Kiara Wasunna, Wynter Medza, Chloe Riziki and others. The cortege leaves Mashujaa Funeral Home on Friday 20th February 2026 for a night vigil stop at his home in Mazeras Misheni within Kilifi County. He will be laid at his final resting place in his ancestral home in Mbuyuni (Kwa Matano) on Saturday 21st February 2026.



Captain Lawton Thomas Kombo

Death and Funeral Announcement



Charles Oduk Badia

We regret to announce the untimely demise of Mr. Charles Oduk Badia, which occurred following a road accident on Saturday, 7th February 2026, in Kisumu, Kenya.

Charles is survived by his beloved wife, Maureen Maviri, and their children, Raywer Badia and Nylah Badia. He was the son of Dr. Willis Badia and Tonny Oduk, and stepson of the late Alice Badia and Rhoda Badia. He was the son-in-law of Peter Maviri and the late Willyckister Nimrode.

He was a brother of Brenda, Haron, Julie, Gordon, Caroline, John Justo, Richard, Shadrack, Cecilia, Bonano, Fiona, and Willis, and the late John Wayne. He was a brother-in-law of James, Zipporah, Teri, Yvonne, Lineo, Lydia, Rooney, Najma, among others.

Charles was the grandson of the late Canon Richard Jang'olo, the late Mama Dorcas Jang'olo, the late Mzee Charles Oduk, and the late Mama Huldah Akoko. He was a loving uncle to many nephews and nieces, including Zion, Richard, Zack, Marsha, and Gabriel. He was also a nephew of Mary Mbaruku, the late Jane Opiyo, Oliver Oduk, Ezekiel Oduk, the late, George Oduk, the late Jimmy Oduk, the late Ezra Oduk among many others.

He was the founding Chairman of Onagi United UAE.

The burial is scheduled for Saturday, 21st February 2026, at the family home in Lul Village, Yimbo-Kadimo.

Death and Funeral Announcement



Rose Muringo Wanjohi

Sunrise: 16th December, 1974 ~ Sunset: 11th February, 2026

It is with deep sorrow and humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the passing on of Rose Muringo Wanjohi of the Parliamentary Service Commission which occurred on Wednesday, 11th February, 2026 while receiving treatment at the Nairobi Hospital.

She was a cherished firstborn daughter of Michael Githinji Wanjohi and Teresa Wambui Wanjohi. She was a loving sister of Susan Wangu Wanjohi, the late Mark Githinji Wanjohi and Stephen Kinyua Wanjohi.

Rose was a caring aunt of Kimberly Githinji, Nicole Kariuki, Alex Kariuki, Stephanie Kinyua, Justin Kariuki, and Melanie Kinyua. She was a niece of Wakeni, Muthoni, Ruriga, Mureithi, Wanjiru and Muthike of the Zechariah Githinji family, the late Maina, Irungu, Wangechi, the late Mwangi, Wairimu, Chomba, Wanjira and Kariuki of the Rifay Mbuitu family. She was a cousin and friend to many.

Rose was a pleasant, diligent and steadfast officer who performed her duties with professionalism, integrity and patriotism.

The cortege will leave Montezuma Funeral Home, Thika Road Branch (Kabati) on Friday, 20th February, 2026 for burial service at Our Lady of Consolata, Sagana Catholic Parish and burial at her home in Sagana, Kirinyaga County. Family and friends are meeting daily for prayers and funeral arrangements at the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), Athi River Centre.

"In God's hands you rest. In our hearts you live forever"

Death and Funeral Announcement



Elder Francis Kung'u Njoroge

Sunrise: 1948 ~ Sunset: 2026

It's with profound sadness that we announce the untimely demise of Elder Francis Kung'u Njoroge (Regent Auctioneers - Kakamega) which occurred on 8th February 2026 at Mary Help the Sick Mission Hospital, Thika.

He was the son of the late Nathaniel Muchina and Freshia Wambui of Githinji Jot Scheme. He was the husband of Felistus Njeri Njoroge.

He was father of Edward Muchina Njoroge (Dubai), George Muchoki Njoroge, Daniel Ngugi Njoroge (UK) and Esther Wanjiru.

He was brother of Joseph Njoroge (Munyu), Margaret Wanjiru (Nairobi), Paul Njogu (Muranga) and the late Ngugi Njoroge, Johana Mbugua, Susan Wakanyi, Peter Kariuki and David Njuguna.

He was brother-in-law of Elder Peter M. Gachie (Regent Auctioneers-Nairobi) and Newton Njogu Muchoki (Nakuru).

He was a loving and cherished uncle and grandfather to numerous nephews and nieces and a grandpa to many.

Funeral meetings are taking place daily at his home at Mwana-Wikio Thika, daily from 4-8 PM.

The funeral cortege will leave Mary Help the Sick Mission Hospital, Thika on 19th February 2026 at 8:00 AM for funeral and burial service where he shall be laid to rest at his farm in Munyu, Naivasha.

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them" ~ Revelations: 14:13

Death and Funeral Announcement



Meshack Leshan Shieni
(1982 - 2026)

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the demise of Meshack Leshan Shieni after a long illness. He passed away on the 12th of February 2026 at the Nairobi Hospital.

Leshan was a beloved son of the late John Siloma Shieni and Josephine Siloma Shieni. A loving brother of Leyian, Sylvia, Liz, Fred, the late Eric and Robin. He was the beloved husband of Sandra Nasieku Lerapayo. A loving father of Sasha, Kyle, Namayiana and Siloma.

He was a loving son in law of Joseph Lerapayo and Marion Lerapayo.

A loving brother-in-law of John, Sebastian, Doris, Nabulu, Teresa, Tiberio, Loitiris, Sendeyo, Ramatu, Paulina, Loibarubaru

He was a treasured nephew of Mary Kulo, the late Fred, Pricilla Nchoko, the late Betty, Jonathan, the late Sylvester, Leah Mwai, the late Raphael, Margaret, Peter Shieni, Kinyikita Taiswa, Esther Menjo, Kiramatisho Ene Naiguta, late Kayioni Kirorei, Noolkisaruni ene Nkoitoi, Lesire Kirorei and Nainyoyie Kimaiyya.

A cousin of Texas, Faith, Naneu, the late Fred Kulo, Murangi Taiswa, Naserian Kimanyim, Oloookishu Menjo, Lekakery Naiguta, Letelpa Kirorei and many others.

His body is lying at Umash Funeral Home, Nairobi.

Requiem mass will be held at the ACK All Saints Cathedral on 17th February 2026 from 1200 - 1400 hours.

Interment will take place at his farm Olkiriane, Narok County on Wednesday 18th February 2026.

Matthew 7:7 (Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you)

Celebrating A Matriarch



Violet Nandako Sabwami

Sunrise: 1942 ~ Sunset: 2026

It is with humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the passing on of Mama Violet Nandako Sabwami which occurred on 8th February 2026.

She was the wife of the late Henry Sabwami Muliro of Kituni Village -Misikhu Ward, Bungoma County.

Daughter of the late Wilson Masungu and the late Rebah Nasimiyu.

Mother of Dr. Butali, late John, Gladys, Wilson, Hellen, Bernard, Francis, Jacklyne, Leah, Ernest, Rose, Alice and Albert.

Sister of late Paul, late Edward, Margaret, Judith, Voster, Beatrice, James, Mary, Ndinyo, Erick, Jane, Hellen among others.

Mother in-law of late Jennifer, Pamela, Caroline, Godfrey, Lucy, Prof Tsingalia, Linah, Lydia, Wycliffe and Vincent.

Grandma to thirty (30), great -grandmother to six (6).

Burial will take place on Saturday 21st February 2026 at Kituni in Misikhu Ward, Bungoma County.

2 Timothy 4:7 "I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Death and Funeral Announcement



James Ngumo Kuria

In acceptance of the Lord's will, we announce the passing of James Ngumo Kuria of Karanjee, Limuru.

He was the beloved son of the late Joseph Kuria Igeria and Peninnah Wambui Kuria.

Ngumo was in the earlier part of his life married to the Mother of his children, Rosemary Nyambura, and they were blessed with seven children: Alice Wambui (USA), the late Ann Muthoni, Irene Njeri, Jane Watati, Rose Nyawira, Joseph Kuria, and Margaret Wambui.

He was also father of James A. Kuria Ngumo.

James was a cherished brother of Teresia Njeri-Murengeti, the late Margaret Gathoni Wachira (Karati-Naivasha), the late Jane Njeri Kahari, Rosemary Muthoni Njeng'ere (Limuru Agrovot), the late John Chege Kuria (JC), Patrick Ndungu Kuria, Peter Kinyanjui Kuria (Uncle Banana), the late Ann Mwhiki Ng'ang'a, Willy Mwangi Kuria (Chief Principal, Murang'a High School), Miriam Wanjiku Mwangi (USA), Jane Wanjiru Kuria (Ustawi Network, Kisumu), and Simon Kania Kuria.

James was also a grandfather to many.

The cortege will leave Naivasha Referral Hospital on Thursday, 19th February 2026 at 8:00 a.m. Funeral and burial services will be held at his residence in Naivasha (Mararo) from 10:00 a.m.

"The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

Sport

Kenya Open Golf Veteran Okello wants locals to do more to match rest of the world **P.35**



Rallying
Reigning world champion Ogier and last year's winner Evans to lead 46 crews to WRC Safari Rally in tough Naivasha terrain **◀ P. 36**

Okello: Local players need discipline to excel in Kenya Open

Continue from page 31

of corporates is a huge relief to the contracted players and offers them an opportunity to play golf throughout the season.

NCBA Bank, Kenya Airways, Diageo, Visa Kenya, Britam and Safaricom are giving Sh3 million each to support players on the Equator Tour, covering their day-to-day running costs and supporting their participation in the Tour's eight tournaments.

The Equator Tour, now entering its second season, is designed for players affiliated to the Professional Golfers of Kenya (PGK) and drives towards boosting their competitiveness.

Okello believes the Tour's impact will be felt at this week's Kenya Open where he projects that seven Kenyan pros will make the cut, if organisers hand the hosts 15 slots envisaged.

But as at yesterday, controversially, only 12 had been entered namely Samuel Chege, Mutahi Kibugu, Greg Snow, David Wakhu, Njoroge Kibugu, Dismas Indiza, Daviel Nduva, Edwin Mudanyi, C.J. Wangai, Jastas Madoya, Mohit Mediratta and Mike Kisia.

"The scores on the (2025/26) Equator Tour were good and unless something very drastic happens between now and the Open, and if they enter the agreed 15 players, then I predict that seven will make the cut, that's if we go according to their performances on the Tour."

Okello, whose typical day starts at 4.30am with an hour's gym session and ends with nine holes of golf from 4pm, will be 58 next year and is planning a Kenya Open comeback after four years out "to teach the young players some lessons."

"Some of them (young players) are saying I'm old and I'm telling them, yes, I'm old and you are young and you still keep doing the same mistakes..."

"Benhard Langer (Germany's two-time Masters Champion) is 68 years old and is still winning the Senior events, and he keeps making the cut in the Masters. There are people who are 25 years old and he still beats them! That's a typical German machine... he goes to the gym and knows what to eat and what to do... That's the discipline we want in Kenyan golf."

Magical Kenya Open Golly Big field to fight for share of Sh348.381m prize purse



From left: Edwin Mudanyi, Mutahi Kibugu, Dismas Indiza, John Wangai, Kenya Open Golf limited chairman Patrick Obath, Greg Snow, David Wako, Mohit Mediratta, Justus Madoya and Mike Kisia during the unveiling of the Magical Kenya Open Pros at Karen Country Club yesterday. LUCY WANJIRU / INATION

Railway golfer joins the party

Kisia's inclusion in the field brings to 12 the number of local pros who will compete in the DP World Tour event

BY LARRY NGALA

Kenya Railway Golf Club-based professional, Mike Kisia, is the latest addition to the Kenyan line-up just two days to the first round of the Magical Kenya Open Golf Championship.

The tournament, which forms part of the prestigious DP World Tour, will be held from Thursday till Sunday at Karen Country Club. It will start with a Pro-Am tomorrow, followed by the first round on Thursday.

This year, a field of 144 golf players are expected to compete in the 57th edition of the tournament, which has an improved prize purse of US\$ 2.7 million (equivalent to Sh348.381 million).

Yesterday, Kenya Open Golf Limited chairman, Patrick Obath, said Kisia will replace Sweden's Simon Forstrom who has withdrawn from the tournament. Kisia's addition brings to 12 the number of Kenyan pros who will compete in the tournament.

The other Kenyan pros are Greg Snow, Samuel Njoroge, David Wakhu, Njoroge Kibugu, Dismas Indiza, Mutahi Kibugu, Daniel Nduva, Ed-



win Mudanyi, John Wangai, Jastas Madoya, and Mohit Mediratta. Mediratta himself was included in the tournament's roster on Friday following the withdrawal of Spanish golfer Eugenio Chacarra.

Meanwhile during the unveiling of Kenya's pro team at Karen Country yesterday, Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports Salim Mvurya said the Magical Kenya Open has grown into one of Africa's most prestigious sporting events, firmly placing Kenya on the world golf calendar while showcasing the country as a premier destination for sports tourism.

"Today we are gathered here not merely to unveil a team but to affirm Kenya's rising stature as a global sporting nation, with exceptional organizational prowess, unmatched sportsmanship, and a vibrant sporting culture that continues to define our identity in the world," CS Mvurya observed.

Mvurya said the Magical Kenya Open is more than a tournament as it serves as a launchpad for Kenyan champions, and a gateway to global success for local golfers.

"I commend our sponsors and partners for their unwavering commitment. Your support is not charity,

Nation Media Group's Chief Corporate Affairs, Marketing and Partnerships Officer Monica Ndung'u makes her remarks during the unveiling of Kenyan pros yesterday at Karen Country Club, Nairobi. LUCY WANJIRU / INATION

it is a strategic investment in Kenyan excellence, youth empowerment and global competitiveness," Mvurya observed.

He challenged the Kenyan team to boldly rise to the occasion, compete fearlessly and carry the Kenyan flag with pride.

"Let this tournament mark Kenya's transition from mere participation to podium dominance," he added.

Obath predicted that more Kenyan players will make the cut in this year's tournament.

"This season, the players have enjoyed far greater competitive exposure compared to previous years," Obath observed. "There is no reason why three or four Kenyan players should not make the cut this year. Members of the Professional Golfers of Kenya (PGK) have featured in several regional and international tournaments this season, including the Equator Tour and Sunshine Development Tour, and that will help them stay competitive on home soil," said Obath.

He said the tournament will feature a full field of 144 players from more than 30 countries. Kenya brings the largest international contingent with 18 players - 12 professionals and six amateurs, followed by South Africa with 17 players, led by defending champion Jacques Kruyswijk. The field also includes five past winners of the tournament, and six top-ranked players from the United States of America's PGA Tour, underscoring the scale and stature of this year's edition.



Magical Kenya Open Golf Championship Kenya hosts 144 players from Thursday till Sunday at Karen Country Club

Jacob Okello: Locals need radical shift to match opponents in Kenya Open

He attributes high standards of the Kenyan game in the 1990s to discipline and commitment, factors he argues are lacking in players today

BY ELIAS MAKORI

Last Sunday, Argentina's 56-year-old Ricardo Gonzalez finished tied for seventh place at the Chubb Classic in Florida (USA) with, among others, fellow countryman and agemate Angel Cabrera on an eight-under-par score, five points behind American winner David Toms.

The \$1,800,000 (Sh243 million) Chubb Classic is part of the PGA Tour Champions series with Toms earning a winner's top prize of \$270,000 (Sh35.1 million) as Gonzalez and Cabrera banked \$53,000 (Sh7.1 million), each, for the four-way seventh place alongside Australia's Rod Pampling and American Bo Van Pelt.

The PGA Tour Champions series, formerly known as the Senior PGA Tour or Champions Tour, is a series for golfers aged over 50 years and features 28 tournaments mainly in the USA, but also including the Trophy Hassan II in Rabat, Morocco (May 21-23) alongside two other tournaments in Scotland and Portugal.

At 56, Gonzalez has sustained a stellar pro golf career since winning a place on the European Tour in 1992 but was unable to keep his Tour card after failing to garner a required purse, dropping to the second-tier Challenge Tour in 1993.

But the Argentine earned his card back by winning the Kenya Open in 1998 in a dramatic, three-hole play-off with Kenya's Jacob Okello, holding his nerve in the third sudden death hole where Okello missed the green and faltered in his chip.

Okello, currently coaching at the Golf Park in Nairobi, earned Sh703,465 for his second-place finish which, holding into consideration cumulative inflation over the years, has an adjusted value of between four to five million shillings today. That remains the best ever performance by a Kenyan golfer to date at the Open.

Okello has kept contact with Gonzalez since and remembers that play-off loss like yesterday, but doesn't lose sleep over what might have been had he driven his tee shot firmly onto the green at the par-three 13th with over 3,000 fiercely partisan fans in tow.

"Throughout the tournament, I was just playing my game. My game was on point and I was just playing one hole at a time," Okello recalls the 1998 drama in an exclusive interview ahead of this week's Kenya Open at Karen Country Club. "After you finish your first 18 holes, that's when you look at your score and know where you are at."

He attributes Kenya's high golfing

standards in the 1990s to discipline and commitment, factors he argues are lacking in today's Kenyan players who struggle to make the cut at the Magical Kenya Open.

"We worked very hard, played a lot of golf and practiced hard. We were helped and could also seek for help from people who were more experienced. I got help from the top guys, like the late John Mucheru, Peter Githua, Abdallah Bekah, Naushad Merali, Charles Farar... all of them were part of building me to make me what I was.

"They used to tell me that 'for you to get to the top, know that this (golf) is your office, it's work, and you must know that you have to report to somebody.' And that was the most important thing. They would follow up and check what was wrong if we didn't practice," reflects Okello who launched his golfing career under the wings of his father, Ben Okello, who was based at Nairobi's Railway Golf Club before relocating the Nyali Golf Club in Mombasa.

Okello Senior was also a member of Uganda's Masaka Golf Club and is remembered for winning the Uganda Open in 1972.

Before following in his father's footsteps, Okello played football to a high level while at Kakamega High School, Kenya's football powerhouse, and had stints at Gor Mahia FC while still in school where his teammates included the legendary George Nyangi Odembo.

But incessant injuries forced football's wonder kid to quit the game and settle for the smaller ball, thanks to his father's guidance.

"I always thank God for my father. I realized golf is an individual game and it's about you. It's not about anyone else and the more work you put in, the better you are, and the less work you put in, it shows in the results. I always thank my father for his guidance."

Okello settled seamlessly into golf and was one of the first African players to win the Junior Strokeplay at Muthaiga at 16 years, and then took up the sport seriously when his father was transferred to Nyali, representing Kenya from junior levels in 1990 as the country's number one junior player.

He was invited to play in the national team where he played alongside the likes of John Mucheru, Peter Githua, Jimmy King'ori, Charan Thethy, Hardeep Tethy, John Kiondo and David Wandua.

"They were good players and I



Golf Park player Jacob Okello turned pro in 1996 and played in the 1997 Kenya Open, launching a sensational professional debut by making the cut before finishing second the following year. FILE | NATION.

played with them a lot when I was a junior and before I got to professional level," he recalls.

Okello turned pro in 1996 and played in the 1997 Kenya Open, launching a sensational professional debut by making the cut before finishing second the following year, losing to Gonzalez in the play-off.

Injuries troubled his subsequent Open attempts and when the nine-hole, pay-and-play Golf Park came up at the Ngong Racecourse, Okello ventured into coaching.

In the no-holds-barred interview, the 57-year-old Okello, who was born on Christmas Day in Kampala, viewed most of the current Kenyan pro golfers as lacking the discipline needed to excel in the game.

"Golf is about you and your discipline... The calibre of players that we have are not hard working. Most of them were caddies who moved to being good amateurs and then professionals, and according to me, they needed to get it right from the beginning.

"I can have the competition course at my disposal all year round but if I don't have the discipline, and if I'm only thinking of immediate financial gain instead of working hard to get such financial gain going consistently, I don't stand a chance."

He also argues that most golf coaches are half baked and despite the enormous pool of player talent available in Kenya, the country lacks requisite skilled personnel to convert such talent into performance.

"I feel very sad that our juniors are being coached by individuals who have done a Level One coaching course in three days... What can you learn in three days to teach? Our short cuts aren't giving results. Once you go through

the right process, everything automatically works.

"We have over 5,000 juniors now, and out of these, we should be able - in a perfect world - to get 10 percent of them playing. For them to get to that level of playing, what do you need to do? You need to have a Professional Tour that is divided into various categories - Senior Professionals, Main Professionals, Ladies and Juniors. This Tour should be run by Kenyans, and owned by Kenya, like the Japanese do with their Tour."

Okello singles out the Japanese model as one that can be replicated in Kenya.

"The Japanese had their Tour built from scratch. They were like 'why should we go to America? We have the land, the weather, everything. How do we get 5,000 players into the golf market?"

"In Kenya, a country with almost 60 million people, we just need 10 percent of these to play golf, and, mathematically, we shall be viable to have our own Tour. Once you have the 10 percent playing, then the cost of everything will go down."

Okello seeks to see more public golf courses in Kenya, proposing that each of the 47 counties hives off areas for the development of sports centres that include golf among other sports.

And as a supporter of President William Ruto's affordable housing project, he appeals for Ruto's administration to push for such sports centres in tandem with the affordable homes to help inspire talent from the young ages.

"The kid in Buru Buru will be involved, the kid in Mathare slums will be involved if the government can build public golf ranges, like the Japanese ones. Why can't such amenities be part of the affordable housing project?"

And while he heaps blame on golf administrators for Kenya's failure to perform at the Open, Okello also points at individual player flaws as triggering such low standards.

"It's not about the Union. It's about the individual. The challenge is us, players. Do we have the interest of the game? Why do we go the short cut way - organizing quick qualifiers, organizing quick programmes for coaches?" he poses.

"It's high time that the Kenya Open Golf Limited, Kenya Golf Union, Kenya Ladies Golf Union - all of them - be held accountable. It pains me when I hear these officials talking and ask myself, 'what's their vision?' To them it seems (holding office) is a stepping stone to politics! For the sport to grow, there have to be drastic changes!"

But the veteran golfer is excited at the prospects that the current Equator Tour brings, noting that the entry

Continued on page 30

Jacob Okello: Radical shift needed for locals to fight for Kenya Open podium places **P.35**



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2026 WRC Safari Rally The fabled competition will cover cumulative distance of 842.9km over three days

Ogier, Evans to lead 46 crews in Safari Rally

Veteran driver Tundo and Karan Patel among 17 Kenyan competitors who will do battle across 350km in tough Naivasha terrain from March 12 to 15

BY AYUMBA AYODI

Defending champion, Elfyn Evans from Great Britain, and reigning world champion Sebastian Ogier from France headline a star-studded Toyota Gazoo Racing World Rally Team (WRT) for this year's World Rally Championship (WRC) Safari Rally.

Current championship leader Evans is fresh from winning Rally Sweden over Valentine's Day weekend, and Ogier, the 2021 and 2023 WRC Safari Rally champion, returns to the WRC's toughest rally, aiming to hand the Japanese constructors team yet another victory.

The fabled WRC safari Rally will cover an accumulative distance of 842.9 kilometres that includes a competitive distance of 350.02km. It will take place in Naivasha from March 12 to 15.

Swede Oliver Solberg who won the opening leg of the 2026 WRC event, the Rallye Monte Carlo, in January, two-time Safari Rally podium finisher Takamoto Katsuta, and rising Finnish star Sami Pajari round off the imposing Gazoo Racing WRT cast. It has been a thrilling piece of action from both Evans and Solberg, who are at the top of this season's standings with 60 and 47 points respectively. Solberg, co-driven by Elliott Edmondson, cruised to victory in Monte Carlo, beating Evans navigated by Scott Martins to second place but while the Briton secured a top podium finish in Sweden, Solberg settled for fourth place.

The victory for Evans at the icy Swedish terrains was a significant milestone for Toyota as it became the first manufacturer since Citroën in 2010 to claim back-to-back podium lockouts in the WRC. Evans has had a good run at the World Rally Championship Safari Rally, securing three podium finishes out of five entries. He finished 10th in 2021, came second in 2022, and wound up in third place in 2023.

The 37-year-old came fourth in 2024 before corking the victorious champagne last year.

Solberg is yet to secure a podium finish at Safari Rally, and his best placing has been seventh in 2024, having retired in 2011 when the Safari Rally returned to the WRC fold.

Ogier is making his first return to



Safari Rally since sealing a double in 2023.

Toyota Gazoo Racing World Rally Team (WRT) have won every edition of Africa's round of the WRC since it returned to the global calendar in 2021.

Nairobi will not share in the action at this year's WRC Safari Rally as all the action will be concentrated in Naivasha, Nakuru County from March 12 to 15. It will be the third leg of the 2026 WRC.

South Korea's Hyundai Racing WRT has also brought out its best as it chases an elusive first Safari Rally title, having been the only team to stop a complete Toyota podium sweep since 2021.

Belgium's Thierry Neuville who is the 2024 world champion, leads the team as he bids to end his string of bad luck in the Safari Rally. He retired in 2021, finished fifth the

following year, got disqualified in 2023, and secured fifth place in 2024 before claiming third place in 2025.

Frenchman Adrien Fourmaux who joined Hyundai from American outfit Ford M-Sport Puma WRT, and Finnish ace Esapekka Lappi, will pilot the other Hyundai cars.

Irishmen Joshua McErlean and Jon Armstrong will lead the M-Sport Puma charge that has entered two cars to bring the WRT entries for the Safari Rally to 10 WRC Rally 1 machines.

Away from the main category, Kenyan drivers have also made strong entries, with Carl Tundo, a five-time Safari Rally champion (during its WRC hiatus) topping the charts. Two-time Africa Rally Champion Karan Patel, current junior ARC champion Samman Singh Vohra and last

President William Ruto, Sport CS Salim Mvurya and other WRC crews applaud Elfyn Evans (right) and his co-driver Scott Martin as they celebrate with the winners' trophy at the awards ceremony of the 2025 World Rally Championship Safari Rally at Hells Gate in Naivasha. FILE | NATION

Toyota Gazoo Racing driver Sebastian Ogier. FILE | NATION



year's WRC 3 winner Nikhil Sachania are other big Kenyan entries.

The ladies are also well represented, with local favourites, Tinashe Gatimu returning with her mum Caroline Gatimu in a Ford Fiesta Rally4 car, which will score points towards ARC3.

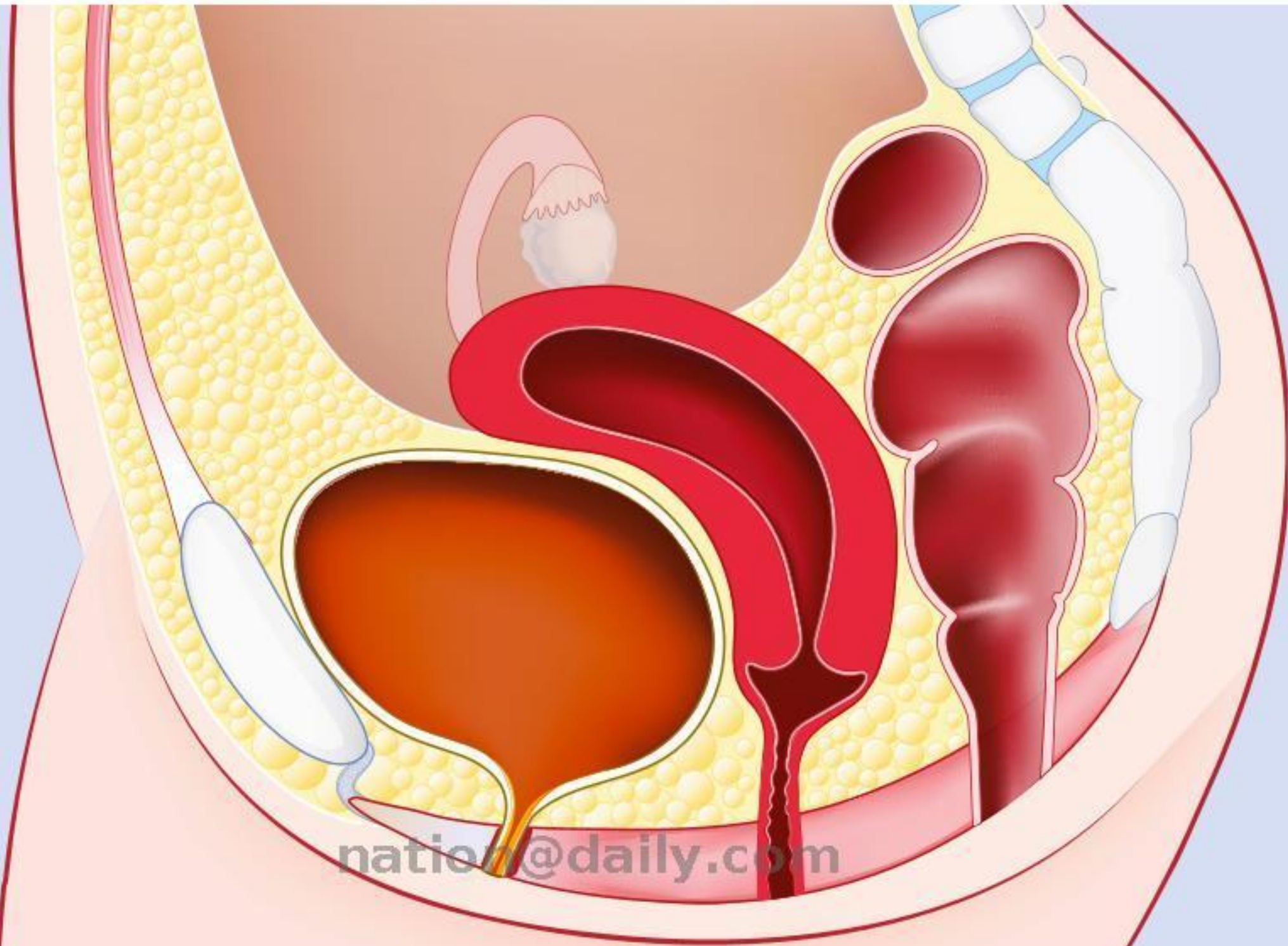
Pauline Shegu and Linet Ayuko have also entered a Subaru car in the race, with Nairobi-based lady driver Lisa Cristoferssen also in the women's mix that has debutant Queen Kalimpiya in a Subaru Impreza WRC STI.

Rwanda will field four crews in the Safari Rally, while Uganda has entered three crews - Duncan Mubiru in Subaru Impreza WRX STI car, Oscar Ntambi in Mitsubishi Lancer Evo X car, and Timohty Gawayu.

FULL LIST OF ENTRIES

1. Oliver Solberg/ Elliott Edmondson (SWE/GBR) Toyota GR Yaris Rally1
2. Elfyn Evans/ Scott Martin (GBR/GBR) Toyota GR Yaris Rally1
3. Sébastien Ogier/ Vincent Landais (FRA/FRA) TOYOTA GR Yaris Rally1
4. Adrien Fourmaux/ Alexandre Coria (FRA/FRA) Hyundai i20 N Rally1
5. Thierry Neuville/ Martijn Wydaeghe (BEL/BEL) Hyundai i20 N Rally1
6. Takamoto Katsuta/ Aaron Johnston (JPN/IRL) Toyota GR Yaris Rally1
7. Sami Pajari/ Marko Salminen (FIN/FIN) Toyota GR Yaris Rally1
8. Joshua McErlean/ Eoin Treacy (FIN/IRL) Ford Puma Rally1
9. Esapekka Lappi/ Enni Mäklönen (FIN/FIN) Hyundai i20 N Rally1
10. Jon Armstrong/ Shane Byrne (IRL/IRL) Ford Puma Rally1
11. Gus Greensmith/ Jonas Andersson (GBR/SWE) Toyota GR Yaris Rally2
12. Robert Virves/ Jakko Viilo (EST/EST) Skoda Fabia RS Rally2
13. Andreas Mikkelsen/ Jørn Listerud (NOR/NOR) Skoda Fabia RS Rally2
14. Fabrizio Zaldívar/ Marcelo Der Ohannessian (PAR/ITA) Skoda Fabia RS Rally2
15. Romet Jürgenson/ Siim Oja (EST/EST) Ford Fiesta Mk II Rally2
16. Diego Dominguez/ Rogelio Peñaite (PAR/EST) Toyota GR Yaris Rally2
17. Daniel Chwist/ Kamil Heller (POL/POL) Skoda Fabia RS Rally2
18. Karan Patel/ Tauseef Khan (KEN/KEN) Skoda Fabia Rally2
19. Carl Tundo/ Tim Jessop (KEN/KEN) Ford Fiesta Rally2
20. Samman Singh Vohra/ Drew Sturrock (KEN/GBR) Skoda Fabia Evo Rally2
21. Jeremiah Wahome/ Victor Okundi (KEN/KEN) Skoda Fabia RS Rally2
22. Andrea Laffarja/ Germán Maune (PAR/PAR) Toyota GR Yaris Rally2
23. Issa Amwari/ Dennis Mwenda (KEN/KEN) Skoda Fabia Rally2
24. Aakif Virani/ Zahir Shah Skoda (KEN/KEN) Fabia RC2 Rally2
25. Ishmael Azeli/ John Ngugi (KEN/KEN) Skoda Fabia RS RC2 Rally2
26. Nataniel Bruun/ Pablo Olmos (BOL/ARG) Ford Fiesta Rally3
27. Georgios Vasilakis/ Allan Harryman (GRE/IRL) Ford Fiesta Rally3
28. Naveen Pulligilla/ Musa Sherif (IND/IND) Ford Fiesta Rally3
29. Nikhil Sachania/ Deep Patel (KEN/KEN) Ford Fiesta Rally3
30. Hamza Anwar/ Adnan Din (KEN/KEN) Ford Fiesta Rally2
31. Yasin Nasser/ Ali Katumba (TAN/UGA) Ford Fiesta Mk II Rally2
32. Jasmeet Chana/ Ravinder Chana (KEN/KEN) Ford Fiesta Rally2
33. Joseph Gachecheh/ Sofia Rantasalo (KEN/FIN) Skoda Fabia Evo Rally2
34. Duncan Mubiru/ Joseph Kamya (UGA/UGA) Subaru Impreza WRX STI
35. Giancarlo Davite/ Fabrice Nyiridandi (RWA/RWA) Subaru Impreza WRX STI
36. Evans Nzioka/ Absalom Aswani (KEN/KEN) Mitsubishi Lancer Evo X
37. Oscar Ntambi/ Uthumaan Muhamadi (UGA/UGA) Mitsubishi Lancer Evo X
38. Sameer Nanji/ Suraj Pala (KEN/KEN) Subaru Impreza WRX
39. Harpreet Singh Bhogal/ Gordon Noble (KEN/GBR) MITSUBISHI Lancer Evo X
40. Queen Kalimpinya/ Olivier Ngabo (RWA/RWA) Subaru Impreza WRX STI
41. Jean Claude Gakwaya/ Jean Claude Mugabo ((RWA/RWA) Mitsubishi Lancer Evo X
42. Christian Kanangire/ Kevin Shyaka (RWA/RWA) Subaru Impreza WRX STI
43. Tinashe Gatimu/ Caroline Gatimu (KEN/KEN) Ford Fiesta
44. Timothy Gawayu/ Francis Wamala (UGA/UGA) Seat Ibiza
45. Pauline Sheghu/ Linet Ayuko (KEN/KEN) Subaru Impreza WRX STI
46. Lisa Christoffersen/ Christabel Mwangi (KEN/KEN) Subaru Impreza WRX STI

2 HealthyNation



Three women, 30 years, same pain

Chronic pelvic pain has stalked Margaret Nyambura and her two daughters across generations. After a lifetime of normalised suffering, the cycle of silence is finally breaking, and this family now believes that healing is within reach, at last. P.4&5

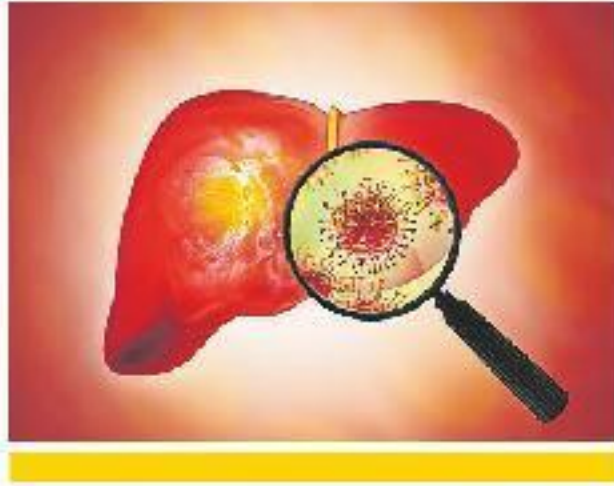
Expansion

WHO moves to add liver and bleeding disorders to NCD list

BY LINET OWOKO

The World Health Organization (WHO) is set to broaden its official classification of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) to include steatotic liver disease, previously known as fatty liver disease, and inherited bleeding disorders.

The expansion follows a resolution passed by the WHO Executive Board last week. Egypt, which sponsored the resolution, noted that steatotic liver disease affects an estimated 1.7 billion people globally. The condition is primarily driven by metabolic risk factors, poor dietary habits, and sedentary lifestyles. The resolution advocates for formal recognition of the disease within global NCD frameworks, calling for its integration into surveillance systems, prevention strategies, primary healthcare management, and



1.7BN

The number of people affected by steatotic liver disease globally.

national action plans. In a separate resolution introduced by Armenia, haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders were highlighted as historically neglected conditions. The measure seeks to address systematic under-diagnosis and improve access to essential treatment and care for affected populations.

The announcements came during an extensive Executive Board session focused on NCDs, which Dr Jeremy Farrar, WHO assistant director general, described as one of the defining health challenges of the 21st century.

The proposals will be presented at the World Health Assembly in May, marking a significant shift in global health priorities. NCDs currently account for a growing share of mortality worldwide. In Africa, they were responsible for 37 per cent of deaths in 2019, up from 24 per cent in

2000. In Kenya, NCDs accounted for 39 per cent of deaths in 2020, a rise from 27 per cent in 2014, with more than half of those deaths occurring in people under the age of 40.

Research indicates that steatotic liver disease is present in sub-Saharan Africa, with prevalence ranging from 10 per cent to 28 per cent, though this is lower than global averages.

Studies in Kenya have validated screening methods for identifying the disease in the population, and the condition is increasingly recognised as part of the broader metabolic syndrome affecting African nations undergoing rapid urbanisation and dietary transitions.

Much of the discussion centred on implementing the UN Political Declaration on NCDs and mental health, adopted in December after initial resistance from

the United States and Argentina. The declaration establishes ambitious targets for 2030, including reducing tobacco use by 150 million, bringing 150 million more people with hypertension under control, and expanding mental health access to 150 million additional individuals.

However, most countries have failed to meet NCD-related Sustainable Development Goals, and the NCD Alliance voiced concerns about the influence of health-harming industries that weakened prevention commitments in the Political Declaration, particularly regarding health taxes on tobacco, alcohol, and sugary beverages.

Dr Farrar warned against over-reliance on treatment rather than prevention, noting WHO's recent organisational reforms that combine health promotion, disease prevention, and care into a single division to encourage more holistic approaches. He also cautioned that ageing populations worldwide would exacerbate the NCD burden.

Globally

788 million
Estimated adults (Over 19 years) with CKD: 788

14.2% Global age-standardised (13.4–15.2) CKD prevalence: 14.2%

1.48 million
CKD deaths in 2023: 1.48 million (ninth leading cause of death)

11.5%
CKD accounted for 11.5% of cardiovascular deaths in 2023

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) burden

Africa

14% Estimated CKD prevalence (sub-Saharan Africa): 14% of adults

4.2% African median CKD prevalence: 4.2%

4.1% CKD mortality attributable fraction varied by country (1.0–4.1% of total deaths in some settings)

Kenya (2020–2025)

4% National CKD prevalence estimate: 4% of the population.

5M Estimated number with some form of kidney disease: 5M

12,000 Estimated people with End-Stage Kidney Disease (ESKD): 12,000

5000 Patients currently on dialysis services (2025): Over 5,000.

45.4% Among hypertensive adults in Wajir County: 45.4% had CKD

Dialysis access

Rapidly increasing in Kenya, with many new patients seeking treatment

Risk factors

Hypertension

Older age

HIV infection

Proteinuria, hematuria

Kidney transplantation in Kenya is available but limited by cost

Sources: Ministry of Health, Wajir County CKD study, Global Burden of Disease, ISN Global Kidney Atlas, Kidney360

Compiled: Linet Owoko
Infographic: Alice Othieno



I am in so much pain... The shame of having to wear diapers as an adult hurts. The begging for help hurts. I need someone to come to my rescue. The cancer cells could be spreading right now, but I have nowhere to turn. I am waiting for the SHA card to be renewed so that I can start my treatment again.
Wilkister Adhiambo, cancer patient



We need to have a proper discussion on what was promised (in regard to SHA launch). Did we promise much more than what we can deliver? Money coming in cannot cover the promises being made. Many Kenyans are not getting treatment.
Kwame Owino, IEA Chief Executive Officer

New dawn



From left: Grace Turgut, Sally Kiget and Esther Cheruiyot collect water from a tap at the newly commissioned Gataret Water Project in Chebunyo Ward, Chepalungu, Bomet County. PHOTO | VITALIS KIMUTAI

60 years of thirst, over: Relief for Bomet residents as water finally reaches homes

BY VITALIS KIMUTAI

For over 60 years, Esther Cheruiyot has made a daily, back-breaking five-kilometre journey to fetch water for her household. The 78-year-old grandmother, alongside other women and children from her community, would travel to River Chepkulo or distant water pans, carrying heavy containers on their backs or loading them onto donkeys.

This daily struggle defined life across several villages in Chepalungu, Bomet County.

Schools struggled with sanitation, creating serious health risks for students. Contaminated water sources have historically led to outbreaks of bilharzia, dysentery, and typhoid among residents.

"We have been fetching water from Chepkulo and Kibirir during dry seasons for years, especially after the rainwater we harvest runs out," Ms Cheruiyot said.

Now, that decades long burden has been lifted. Through the Financing Locally Led Climate Action programme, the Bomet County and national governments have laid a five kilometre piped water network in the area, serving more than 2,000 residents.

The project benefits villages across Chepalungu: Koita, Lelbarak, Kiptenden, Gataret, Chebugon, and Chelelach, bringing water close to homes for the first time. It addresses longstanding challenges in public health, sanitation, nutrition, agriculture, and livestock management in this semi arid part of Bomet County.

Ms Cheruiyot said women in the area feel profound relief. Access to clean water has

improved hygiene, health, and brought unexpected economic opportunities.

"Because of this water, we're now able to do basic irrigation in our gardens," she explained. "Vegetable production has gone up, which improves food security and has become an extra source of income for many families."

Priscilla Rotich, on whose land a distribution tank has been installed, explained that since independence, locals have had no access to clean piped water. Women and children, especially girls, were forced to fetch water from distant rivers.

Spinal injuries

"Many women suffer from health conditions, especially spinal injuries, after decades of carrying water daily in this semi-arid area. With a consistent supply, this will finally end," said Ms Rotich.

She noted that water is now available 24 hours a day, allowing residents to provide for livestock, cook, and wash with ease. This reliability has freed up time for women to pursue other economic activities.

"We are appealing to the government to extend the pipeline to neighbouring villages and set up more water troughs for livestock to ease the current pressure on the supply."

Alice Simotwo described how, for years, women risked their safety washing clothes in rivers and fetching water year-round, facing dangers such as drowning. "Now residents can bathe regularly, wash clothes, water livestock, and irrigate their gardens."

Annah Koskei, another resident, highlighted the broader social impact. "In the past, girls were exposed to the risk

of assault while fetching water from remote areas. Having water points close to homes has solved that," she stated.

She emphasised that the water supply has become a key socio-economic pillar for the community, most of whom are small-scale farmers.

Dr Joseph Sionik, Bomet County's Health executive, explained that carrying heavy loads on the back or head over long periods has lasting negative health effects.

"Carrying heavy loads misaligns the spine, places pressure on spinal discs, leads to poor posture, causes stiffness, and results in other health complications."

He added that a lack of clean, safe drinking water has also left residents vulnerable to diseases such as dysentery, cholera, diarrhoea, and typhoid.

Solomon Kimetto, Water chief officer, affirmed that both the national and county governments remain committed to easing the region's water supply challenges.

"Water supply is capital-intensive, and we need donor support to reach more people beyond those currently covered under the various programmes being rolled out in the county."

He noted that rivers, streams, dams, and water pans remain the primary sources of drinking water for most residents, while the county government continues to promote rainwater harvesting techniques.

Bomet County lies in the South Rift Valley, a highly productive agricultural region where farmers grow tea, pyrethrum, maize, avocado, coffee, bananas, beans, potatoes, cabbages, and various vegetables alongside livestock rearing.

Governor Hillary Barchok acknowledged that historical gaps in water infrastructure have left parts of the county underserved; a shortfall his administration is now working to address.

"With population growth in both urban and rural areas, we are working to expand access to clean and safe drinking water. This will help address persistent health, nutrition, and economic challenges in the county," Prof Barchok said.

He added: "In the lower zones, residents have largely relied on water pans. We are now extending piped water to homes to curb waterborne diseases." Many local schools and colleges depend on rainwater harvesting, but when tanks run dry, traders step in to supply water using bowsers; an expensive and unreliable stop-gap.

Meanwhile, the county administration is also rehabilitating dilapidated pipelines across existing schemes in all five sub-counties.

Opinion

Kenya's roadmap to ending cervical cancer deaths

With new action plans, funding, and partnerships, the country has tools to eliminate this preventable disease, but reaching every woman and girl will require focused action



BY MARY MUTHONI

Cervical cancer remains a major public health concern in Kenya, and its continued impact on women highlights the need for more consistent and effective application of existing prevention and treatment interventions. It is the second most common cancer among women and the leading cause of cancer-related deaths despite the availability of effective prevention and treatment options.

According to 2022 estimates by GLOBOCAN, Kenya records approximately 5,845 new cases and 3,591 deaths annually.

These figures point to persistent gaps in prevention, screening, early diagnosis and access to timely and quality treatment services.

The burden of cervical cancer in Kenya is largely driven by low uptake of preventive services, delayed health seeking behaviour and inequities in access to care across counties and communities. Many women continue to be diagnosed at advanced stages, when treatment options are more complex and outcomes are less favourable. Contributing factors include limited awareness, social and cultural barriers, stigma, weak referral pathways and uneven distribution of diagnostic and treatment capacity, particularly in underserved and hard-to-reach areas.

Addressing these challenges requires sustained attention to both service availability and demand creation at a community level.

Cervical cancer is caused primarily by persistent infection with high-risk strains of the human papillomavirus (HPV), making it one of the most preventable forms of cancer. HPV vaccination, regular screening and early treatment of pre-cancerous lesions are proven, cost-effective interventions.

In Kenya, HPV vaccination targets girls aged 10-14 years, while cervical cancer screening focuses on women aged 25-49 years, with provisions for older women based on clinical guidance and individual risk profiles. Sustained ex-

pansion of coverage across these groups remains essential to reducing incidence and mortality, particularly when services are integrated into routine primary healthcare and community outreach programmes.

The country's response to cervical cancer is aligned with the World Health Organization Global Strategy for Cervical Cancer Elimination, which sets the 90-70-90 targets to be achieved by 2030. National priorities are articulated within the National Cancer Control Strategy (2023-2027), emphasising prevention, early detection, strengthened referral systems and improved access to treatment.

Spur action

The launch of the national Cervical Cancer Elimination Action Plan 2025-2030 represents a critical opportunity to spur action and place Kenya on track towards achieving the 2030 interim elimination targets. Public awareness initiatives, including the annual National Cervical Cancer Awareness month commemorated each January, have supported county mobilisation and increased visibility for prevention and early detection services. Access to care has also been strengthened through financing and system reforms. Through the Social Health Authority, the government has expanded the Cancer Benefit Package under the Social Health Insurance Fund by removing limits on treatment cycles within the annual benefit cap and increasing the per-patient benefit from Sh550,000 to Sh800,000, effective 1 December 2025. These measures are intended to improve continuity of care, reduce out-of-pocket expenditure and protect households from financial hardship often associated with cancer treatment.

In addition, Kenya's Fee-for-Service programme reflects the Ministry of Health's commitment to strengthening access to quality care through sustainable public-private partnerships. By equipping public health facilities with essential diagnostic and treat-

ment equipment, the programme supports earlier diagnosis, timely treatment and improved access to services closer to communities. This approach contributes to reducing delays in care, strengthening county-level capacity and improving the overall quality and responsiveness of cancer services.

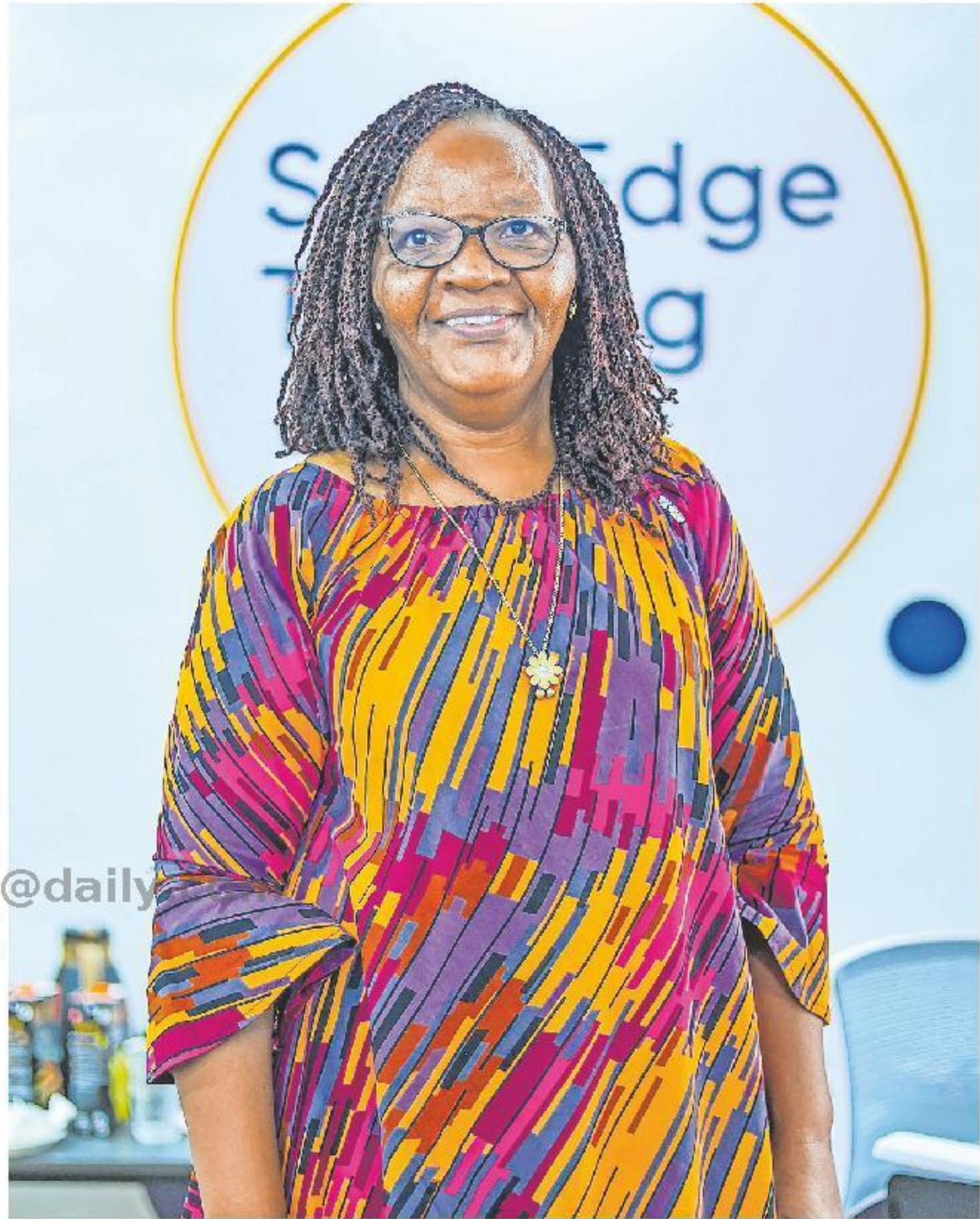
Eliminating cervical cancer in Kenya will require sustained and coordinated action across multiple sectors. Women should be supported to access regular screening and complete treatment when referred. Parents and guardians have a responsibility to ensure eligible girls receive the HPV vaccine as a critical preventive measure.

County governments must continue to prioritise cervical cancer services within primary healthcare, strengthen referral and reporting systems, and ensure equitable access across all communities. Health workers, professional associations, civil society organisations and development partners each have a role in advancing prevention, improving service delivery and promoting health seeking behaviour. Equally important is the need to strengthen data systems, monitoring and accountability to track progress and guide continuous improvement. Reliable data on screening coverage, treatment completion and outcomes will support better planning and ensure that resources are directed where they are most needed. Community engagement, anchored in trust and accurate information, will remain central to sustaining demand for services and addressing misconceptions that continue to limit uptake.

With strengthened health systems, improved financing, appropriate equipment, informed communities and sustained leadership, Kenya is well positioned to significantly reduce cervical cancer deaths and move steadily towards eliminating the disease as a public health concern.

Ms Muthoni is the State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards PS

A lifetime of pain: How generations of women learn to endure pelvic pain



One mother's 29-year struggle has repeated itself in her daughters. Now, they are speaking out to ensure the next generation doesn't just survive, but heals

BY MERCY CHELANGAT

Margaret Nyambura was 32 when the pain became unbearable. She is now 61. In between, she raised two daughters, became a grandmother, and not a single day passed without the pain reminding her it was still there.

But this pain did not begin at 32. It started much earlier, when she was 13, the very first time she had her period.

From that first day, something felt wrong. The cramps were not ordinary. They were the kind that stopped her in her tracks, bent her double, and made her wonder if what she was going through was normal. But she had no one to ask. Talking to her mother about it felt impossible: too personal, too uncomfortable, and too difficult to put into words.

At the time, she was living with her youngest maternal aunt, a college student who understood the pain better than anyone else. Her aunt suffered the same way. Her periods were so painful that she would miss work entirely, lying in bed waiting for the worst to

pass. It was this aunt, not a doctor, not a health worker, who sat with the young Margaret and helped her understand what her body was going through.

There were no hospital visits. No tests. No diagnosis. No one was asking what was causing the pain or how to treat it properly. The goal was simply to get through it: whatever days it would take, using whatever was available, waiting for the pain to ease, then carrying on with life.

As Margaret puts it, pain management was never about understanding what was wrong. It was about survival.

"The issue was dealing with the pain so that I could go to school. I took all types of painkillers, and when the pain subsided, I continued with my life. Consulting a doctor or exploring why the pain existed was not part of the picture. I don't think there was a concept of not coping. You just coped," she recalls.

In addition to severe menstrual pain, she experienced ovulation pain that alternated from the right side to the left. During her A-levels, she discussed this with her parents, and her father took her to see a doctor.

"I remember trying to explain the mid-monthly pain very clearly, but I don't remember being told anything. I left the consultation with painkillers and no explanation. The painkiller dealt with the pain, so life continued," she says.

The first diagnosis

At 26, Nyambura got married, and three

months later, she conceived. It was during early pregnancy that she experienced a pain so horrific it sent her crawling on the floor. She visited a gynaecologist for the first time in her life and was diagnosed with fibroids. The doctor explained that the fibroids had likely always been there, causing years of pain, but had remained dormant. Pregnancy hormones, however, had activated their growth.

"As the baby grew, the fibroids were also growing. One fibroid was attached to the uterine wall, raising concern. Doctors opted for close monitoring rather than surgery during pregnancy. I sought a second opinion and was informed that in some cases, as the baby grew and the uterus expanded, the fibroid could get compressed and immobile, which is exactly what happened," says Margaret.

"I carried the pregnancy to term but experienced complications during labour. The doctors said the fibroids were interfering with the contractions. Labour was induced, I delivered safely, and the fibroids were left in place," she adds.

For several years afterwards, the pain reduced to discomfort, and Margaret went on to have two more children. After her third child, however, her health deteriorated. Her haemoglobin levels dropped, and she began to faint frequently. Doctors recommended a hysterectomy.

"At that point, I was no longer interested in having more children. In 2007, at the age of 42, after nearly 29 years of pelvic pain, I un-

derwent an open hysterectomy. My uterus was removed, but my ovaries were left intact to preserve hormonal balance and reduce the severity of menopausal symptoms. The horrible pelvic pain stopped immediately," she says.

She still experiences mild ovulation pain and occasional hot flashes because her ovaries remain, but the debilitating discomfort that had defined much of her life ended. However, her experience has repeated itself across generations, affecting both her daughters.

"My firstborn began experiencing intense pelvic pain in late primary school. It got so bad that it disrupted her secondary school education, and she had to be withdrawn from boarding school and transferred to a day school. Each month, I would be called to take her to the hospital for injections because oral painkillers were no longer effective. Pain is poorly understood. People don't realise how debilitating it can be, that it can knock you out of normal life completely," says Margaret.

Her eldest daughter was never thoroughly diagnosed during adolescence. Margaret recalls that she was simply given injections. There was no pelvic examination. Only later, as a married woman, did she undergo proper evaluation.

An inherited pain

And then came her second daughter, Joy Wambui, with similar pain. Her periods start-

Margaret Nyambura, who has battled chronic pelvic pain for 29 years, during the interview on February 5. PHOTOS | WILFRED NYANGARESII

ed at age 12, in Class Six.

"I was excited to finally experience what everybody else in my class had. The other girls had already told me what it was like; however, none of them talked about pain. When they eventually came, my excitement disappeared immediately. My very first experience was just pain. When I asked my peers about it, they were confused. They were like, 'No, I don't feel pain. What are you talking about?'" says Joy.

Joy spoke to her mother, gradually learning that both her sister and mother had lived with similar pain, though it had never been clearly explained to her before. Around that time, she made her first visit to a gynaecologist and was prescribed pain medication. Because she was in day school, managing the pain was somewhat easier, as she could take medication from home.

That changed when she joined a boarding secondary school. Assuming the school sanatorium would help, she did not carry her medication. Instead, each month she was given what she describes as a white tablet and told it would settle the pain. It did not.

"I went to the school so often I started being labelled a malingerer. At one point, my parents were called and told that I was faking illness. But I was genuinely in pain," Joy says.

"With no support from teachers or house mistresses and little understanding of menstrual pain, I began carrying my own medication to school. I realised that from the sanatorium, I wasn't going to get help," she adds.

Over time, her condition worsened. Her menstrual cycle lengthened, bleeding became heavier, and the medication she relied on stopped being effective. She started taking it more frequently, and sometimes it would run out, forcing her to return to the sanatorium. This only reinforced her reputation as a problem student.

After finishing high school, Wambui returned to a gynaecologist. Once more, there was no diagnostic testing, only pain management. As the years passed, the pain intensified and spread across more of the month.

"Before, the pain would start about three days before my period. Then it became a whole week: during my period and after. I'd only have about one good week in a month," she says.

The pain increasingly disrupted her daily life and work. At times, it became so severe that she had to visit a chemist for injectable pain relief. Even then, the relief was temporary. After a couple of hours, she would still need more medication.

Last year, she began experiencing fainting spells. Blood tests revealed low haemoglobin levels, and she underwent iron infusions. However, her symptoms persisted. Eventually, she was placed on a strict pain-management regimen, requiring medication every two hours.

Further investigations, including scans and additional tests, revealed evidence of endometriosis and uterine polyps. Conservative treatment options were attempted, including hormonal therapy intended to suppress her periods. However, they failed to do so, and her painful periods continued.

As her condition progressed, Joy was prescribed increasingly strong medication, including Tramadol, an opioid, alongside other drugs to manage pain and nausea.

"The medication itself makes you nauseous, so you need even more medicine just to cope with the side effects. The financial burden has also been significant. I spend about Sh3,000 to Sh4,000 a month on just one medication," she explains.

With pain management and hormonal options no longer effective, surgery became



Dr Dennis Mureithi, an obstetrician/gynaecologist and laparoscopy specialist, during the interview at The Hem Practice clinic in Thika on February 5.

the final option. Wambui is now scheduled to undergo surgery in March.

As a mother, Margaret acknowledges the fear and uncertainty parents face.

"It's such a fine balance, trying to find what works while worrying about how disruptive the treatment itself might be. Some medical interventions can cause significant side effects, making decision-making even harder. What I learned is that I handled my daughters' pain better than mine was handled. Not perfectly, but better. Because I was able to walk with them, take them to doctors, and try to look beyond just surviving the pain," she concludes.

A normalised suffering

Dr Dennis Mureithi acknowledges that pain among women has been normalised, leading to poor health-seeking behaviour and, as a result, late diagnoses.

"Because of delayed diagnosis, patients often present late. By then, they're exhausted, depressed, and stuck in a hopeless cycle. Pain leads to emotional distress. Hormonal changes worsen it. You cannot manage this condition with medication alone. Patients often need a multidisciplinary approach: psychotherapy, pain management, sometimes surgery, and in complex cases, pain specialists," says Dr Mureithi.

He describes pelvic pain as pain or discomfort felt in the lower abdomen or pelvic region, the area below the belly button and above the thighs, between the hip bones. It can also radiate to surrounding areas, such as the lower back or hips. Pelvic pain can take many forms: it may be sudden and sharp (acute) or develop gradually and persist over time (chronic). Some people experience a dull ache or pressure, cramping or throbbing sensations that come and go, or pain that feels twisted or knotted.

He explains that there are many causes of pelvic pain. It can stem from underlying gynaecological, urological, gastrointestinal, or musculoskeletal conditions. Gynaecological conditions that can cause pelvic pain include endometriosis, ovarian cysts and cyst rupture, pelvic inflammatory disease, fibroids and adenomyosis, ectopic pregnancy, ovarian torsion, and period pain or menstrual cramps (dysmenorrhoea). Bladder conditions such as urinary tract infections and kidney stones, or digestive tract conditions like irritable bowel syndrome and abdominal or groin hernias, can also be responsible.

As an obstetrician and gynaecologist, Dr Mureithi is dedicated to advancing women's healthcare, addressing pelvic pain, and advocating for minimally invasive surgery and its availability in rural and peri-urban communities in Kenya.

"In our clinic, The Hem Practice, which primarily focuses on gynaecological conditions, we see about 25 women a week.

Roughly 70 per cent present with some form of pelvic pain, with common conditions including fibroids and endometriosis. I perform about five surgeries a week related specifically to pelvic pain. Most of these are laparoscopic," he says.

"When a patient suffers from chronic pain over a long period, the body undergoes a process called pain centralisation. Under normal circumstances, a stimulus, like a pinprick, sends a signal to the brain, which interprets it as pain and triggers a withdrawal reflex. However, if this cycle repeats for years, the brain's pain-processing centre becomes overloaded. The volume is effectively turned up, causing the brain to interpret even normal, innocuous sensations as massive amounts of pain. This neurological shift explains why traditional painkillers often fail and why patients frequently spiral into a cycle of depression and hopelessness," says Dr Mureithi.

"In modern gynaecological practice, a patient presenting with pelvic pain requires a



In modern gynaecological practice, a patient presenting with pelvic pain requires a consultation that goes far beyond the physical site of discomfort. One of the first questions I now ask is: 'How is your sleep quality?'

Dr Dennis Mureithi



Dr. Dennis Mureithi showcases the endo bora pelvic trainer during a facility tour at The Hem Practice in Thika.

consultation that goes far beyond the physical site of discomfort. One of the first questions I now ask is: 'How is your sleep quality?' We have come to understand that pain is not a static sensation; it is deeply synergistic with the brain's response. When a patient is sleep-deprived, the intensity of their pain is heightened. By addressing this through simple, non-addictive interventions like magnesium or melatonin, rather than traditional drugs, we can significantly reduce the perceived intensity of their suffering," he adds.

Dr Mureithi's decision to set up his clinic and his advocacy for minimally invasive surgery was inspired by his spouse's story. In their second year of marriage, she was diagnosed with acute-onset pelvic pain. Then a gynaecologist in training, he took her to see his older colleagues, who suggested she had an ectopic pregnancy. They performed surgery, only to find there was none.

By the time she was eventually diagnosed with irritable bowel syndrome, she had undergone major abdominal surgery, had a 10cm belly scar, and was still dealing with the pain that had taken her to the hospital in the first place.

"Instead of all that, the medics should have just made a 10-millimetre incision, put in a camera, looked around and confirmed there was no ectopic pregnancy, and then come out. Instead, they gave a patient a 10-centimetre wound for no reason. It was at this point that I realised things needed to change, because the facility had a laparoscopic tower and equipment donated by partner universities, but no one had the skill," says Dr Mureithi.

Surgery on wheels

Six years ago, he and his co-founder launched the Lap on Wheels programme to bridge the gap in surgical access. What began as a passion project, using a borrowed truck from a friend's mobile kitchen to transport a laparoscopic tower, has now served nearly 1,000 patients. Dr Mureithi and his team visit level-four and level-five hospitals in counties to provide free or subsidised surgeries for patients who would otherwise face long recovery times from open surgery, and to train experienced surgeons to transition from open surgery to laparoscopic techniques.

The impact is best seen in cases like ectopic pregnancies. Traditionally, an ectopic pregnancy meant major open surgery and a month-long recovery. With laparoscopy, a woman can be operated on in the morning and be walking, pain-free, within hours.

"We must move away from the cultural notion that suffering is a natural part of womanhood. If a young girl is missing school due to pain, it is a red flag. We have the technology, the medication, and the surgical expertise to ensure that no patient has to live in a hopeless cycle. By building better statistics and increasing clinical suspicion among pharmacists and general practitioners, we can finally give pelvic pain the national priority it deserves," concludes Dr Mureithi.

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New chapter

The Kenyan scientist on a mission to bring vaccine manufacturing home

Years after her TED talk predicted a malaria vaccine, Prof Faith Osier is now building Africa's capacity to develop its own jabs

BYHELLEN SHIKANDA

Three years before the first-ever malaria vaccine was officially approved by the World Health Organization, Prof Faith Osier delivered an inspiring seven-minute TED talk about how close the world was to having one. That video appears whenever you search her name online besides her designation as an immunologist, paediatrician, and educator. She stood on the dimly lit stage with just her microphone, inspiring the world with a vision that was not yet realised, but she was hopeful it was near. At the time, her team was working to understand the malaria-causing parasite *Plasmodium falciparum* in order to develop a suitable vaccine candidate.

"We did this in Africa, and we are very proud of that," she declared, as the audience cheered.

She was right. In 2021, the world got the first-ever malaria vaccine, which is given to children under the age of five, and Kenya was one of the first countries to roll it out.

Around the time of the vaccine's approval, the world was dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic, one that laid bare the inequities that exist across the globe.

Kenya and Ghana

"Vaccines were being made in high-income countries. These countries focused on supplies for their own populations. Commitments made to donate vaccine supplies to Africa were mostly not met," she tells *Healthy Nation* in an interview.

"The wake-up call was that Africa needed to become self-sufficient and be able to supply vaccines for the continent," she adds.

It was then that Prof Osier's idea for Chanjo Hub, an Africa-led vaccine manufacturing initiative, was born. Chanjo Hub is funded by UK Research and Innovation.

Prof Osier also serves as chairperson in Malaria Immunology and Vaccinology in the Department of Life Sciences and Co-Director of the Institute of Infection at Imperial College London. "We designed a project focused on small-scale manufacturing because it was a university-led initiative," she explains. She began the project in two countries: Kenya and Ghana.

In Kenya, she is currently piloting a new malaria vaccine using messenger RNA (mRNA) technology. In Ghana, her team is using chicken and quail eggs to develop new life-saving vaccines. The mRNA technology involves a genetic code that provides a ready-made protein, enabling the body to produce antibodies and trigger an immune response upon infection. "We chose these technologies deliberately because we are able to do it in a small space and in a more cost effective manner. You don't need a huge factory." In Kenya, Prof Osier is partnering with Tasa Pharma, a local pharmaceutical company recommended by the government

Prof Faith Osier, a Kenyan scientist based in the UK. She leads Chanjo Hub, which aims to expand vaccine manufacturing capacity across Africa and has an initial focus on Kenya. PHOTO: IPOOL



I started working in Kilifi as a junior doctor many years ago, and I was so surprised by how malaria was making young children sick, and how they were dying

Prof Faith Osier



technology to their Ghanaian partner, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

At this initial stage, her team is also mapping the potential cost of the vaccine, assessing its acceptability among the population, and evaluating the regulatory environment, given the strict requirements for health products.

South Africa has since become the third country to join the Chanjo Hub. In their context, they are using a plant scientifically known as *Nicotiana benthamiana* to come up with new vaccines that can be used for Human Papilloma Virus and the Rift Valley Fever.

What next after the pilot phase?

If Prof Osier and her team succeed in developing a viable product, the next step will be clinical trials. This will mean giving real people the vaccines to see if they actually work. "If that will be successful, then it would really give us the energy to produce it on a much larger scale," she says.

"The aim of the project was really to build the capacity to manufacture vaccines locally. We want people trained so that if we can produce a malaria vaccine, we can also make vaccines for other diseases that are problematic in Kenya," she adds.

Social media has become awash with misinformation, particularly around childhood immunisation. Prof Osier urges everyone to always verify their sources and seek advice from health practitioners rather than relying on social media.

"Once it hits you, you will know. When you see a child with measles or treat a child who has died from malaria, and you see what they go through yet that could have been prevented by just getting a vaccine, it will not be hard to be convinced," she says.

Prof Osier also reminds young scientists in Kenya and beyond that they each have a role to play in development.

"If we can play our part and improve the health of our people using the knowledge we have gained, then we should do so," she says.

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due to its sterile manufacturing facility. The Kenya BioVax Institute, the government's flagship vaccine manufacturing initiative, had only been established the same year Prof Osier conceived the idea, but they are now collaborating, along with the Kenya Medical Research Institute.

Prof Osier and her team are currently in the pilot phase, conducting tests in the United Kingdom, where the necessary technology is readily available. Her goal is to transfer that technology to Africa so local scientists can manufacture vaccines from scratch. "Later this year (2026), we will be in a position to begin the technology transfer to Kenya BioVax and Tasa Pharma so that by the end, we can transfer the capability for the entire process," she says.

Prof Osier explains that the malaria vaccine her team is developing is slightly different from the existing one in a key way: it acts at a different stage of a malaria infection.

"The current vaccine works on the sporozoite stage; the stage when a mosquito bites you. It

tries to block the development of that sporozoite. From there, the parasite moves to the liver; and once it exits the liver, it enters the blood stage. It is the blood stage that makes you sick," she explains.

"What our vaccine does is work on the blood stage. If the parasite escapes, our vaccine induces immunity that acts at the blood stage," she adds.

Prof Osier chose to focus on a malaria vaccine for Kenya because she has been working in this field since 1998 after collaborating with researchers from the UK who were based in Kenya at the time.

"I started working in Kilifi as a junior doctor many years ago, and I was so surprised by how malaria was making young children sick, and how they were dying. I grew up in Nairobi and had not seen the impact of malaria firsthand," she shares.

In Ghana, the team has a similar arrangement, this time with a partner in the United States. The US-based partner is training them in egg-based vaccine development, beginning with production in the US before transferring the

Walk sooner



Orthopaedic and spine surgeon at Metropolitan Hospital, Dr Faraj Alkizim, during the interview on February 6. WILFRED NYANGARESII/NATION

Robotic knee surgery offers new lease of mobility for patients

The technology is the first of its kind in East and Central Africa, marking a significant milestone for orthopaedic care in the region

BY MERCY CHELANGAT

For 59-year-old Christine Musonye, the journey to understanding her own body has been one of persistence and long-delayed answers. For about six years, she has battled arthritis, a common, often chronic condition marked by joint inflammation, pain, and stiffness caused by cartilage wear or immune system attacks.

Musonye recalls the first signs of trouble appearing around 2019. What began as intermittent pain in the sole of her right foot eventually spread to her knee, evolving into a debilitating condition that robbed her of her mobility. "I would feel sharp pain in the soles of my feet. But as time went on, the pain grew sharper and spread through my foot. It continued to intensify until I was completely immobilised," she said.

In the early years, the severity of her condition was masked by temporary fixes. Like many navigating chronic pain without a clear diagnosis, she frequented local chemists for over-the-counter medication. At the time, she didn't realise that the relief she felt was only temporarily veil over a chronic condition. It was three years later, at a Nairobi hospital, that she was finally diagnosed with arthritis and underwent her first surgery.

"The aftermath of the surgery was painful, and it took me about two months before I could comfortably walk again," says Musonye.

The surgery bought her three years of mobility before the disease struck again in 2025, this time in her right leg. Musonye packed her bags once more and travelled to Nairobi for treatment. There, she would become one of the first two patients to undergo robotic-assisted knee replacement surgery at Metropolitan Hospital in December. The procedure,

which resurfaces damaged knee joints by replacing diseased bone and cartilage with implants, is designed to alleviate chronic pain and restore mobility.

At the hospital, she was informed about the newly available technology and given the opportunity to try it. Robot-assisted knee replacement surgery is an advanced, computer-guided technique in which orthopaedic surgeons use a robotic arm to perform highly precise total or partial knee replacements. The technology is the first of its kind in East and Central Africa, marking a significant milestone for orthopaedic care in the region.

"When I first arrived, I was very anxious about going through with it. I was afraid it would make mistakes and harm me. I believed I was safe with a doctor, someone who could assess the situation and make sound decisions. It took my relatives' intervention to get me to agree," she says. "I was able to walk the same day after surgery, and I have been pain-free to date. I underwent my first review at the beginning of the year and was given a clean bill of health. I'm due for another review in three months to check my progress, but I am recovering well," she adds.

Older adults

Musonye is among a growing number of older adults experiencing bone and joint conditions that increasingly affect mobility and quality of life. The most common of these is osteoarthritis, a degenerative condition caused by the gradual wear and tear of joint surfaces over time. It particularly affects weight-bearing joints such as the knees, leading to pain, stiffness, deformities like bowed legs or knock knees, and, in advanced cases, the need for joint replacement surgery.

Many elderly patients also contend with degenerative joint disease, where cartilage deterioration is accelerated by age, previous injuries, or prior surgeries. Long-standing joint damage can alter normal limb alignment and severely restrict movement. Spinal degeneration is also common with advancing age, often resulting in chronic back pain, nerve compression, and functional impairment that may eventually require surgical intervention.

Another major concern among older adults is osteoporosis, a condition marked by re-

duced bone density and strength. Weak, porous bones increase the risk of fractures, sometimes from minor falls or even routine movement, and can complicate surgical care.

The hospital's head of Robotics, Joint Replacement, and Spine Surgery, Dr Faraj Alkizim, said the technology of robot-assisted knee surgery represents a significant leap forward in surgical precision, safety, and patient outcomes. "We are living in an era of artificial intelligence and precision medicine. The question is no longer whether we can do surgery well, but whether we can do it better," said Dr Alkizim.

Contrary to common belief, knee replacement surgery does not involve replacing the entire knee. According to Dr Alkizim, only the damaged surfaces of the joint are replaced.

"The knee is a major weight-bearing joint. Over time, or due to injury or disease such as arthritis, the smooth surface wears out and becomes rough and deformed. We replace that damaged part with a prosthetic joint, almost like placing a cap over the worn surface," he explained.

Robotic-assisted surgery enhances this process by using advanced imaging, artificial intelligence, and computer-guided precision to plan and execute bone cuts, which is the most critical part of the operation.

Before surgery, patients undergoing robotic knee replacement undergo a CT scan from hip to foot. The scan enables surgeons to assess the full alignment of the limb and develop a detailed, patient-specific surgical plan.

"We virtually perform the surgery on a computer before the patient ever enters the theater. We determine exactly where to cut, how deep, and at what angle, down to sub-millimetre and sub-degree accuracy. Every robotic procedure includes a full back-up plan. If the robot fails for any reason, we immediately switch to conventional surgery. The patient is never put at risk," said Dr Alkizim.

He said robotic-assisted surgery offers several advantages over conventional knee replacement, including improved precision, better alignment, increased predictability of outcomes, and enhanced safety. "Free-hand bone cutting carries a higher risk of unintended injury. The robot operates within a controlled boundary, which reduces the risk of damage to surrounding structures.

Boost

Sh232m TB diagnostic device set to transform testing for Africans

BY LINET OWOKO

The Global Health Innovative Technology (GHIT) Fund has announced a Sh232.2 million (\$1.8 million) investment to validate a tuberculosis diagnostic device in three African countries; the largest single commitment in the Fund's broader portfolio of global health research and development.

GHIT is a Japanese-led initiative that funds the discovery and advancement of new health technologies including drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics, for low- and middle-income countries.

The Lung Flute ECO project brings together a consortium of African research institutions, including the Aurum Institute, Stellenbosch University, Instituto Nacional de Saúde in Mozambique, and the World Alliance for Lung and Intensive Care Medicine in Uganda, alongside partners from Japan and Belgium.

This ambitious clinical validation programme will enroll more than 8,000 participants across South Africa, Mozambique, and Uganda to assess whether the device can transform tuberculosis diagnosis among populations that have historically faced barriers to conventional testing.

Unlike traditional sputum collection methods, which require patients to produce deep-lung samples, often difficult or impossible for children, healthcare workers, and people living with HIV, the Lung Flute ECO offers a non-invasive alternative that could dramatically expand diagnostic access in resource-limited settings. The device represents a critical breakthrough for vulnerable populations who currently fall through diagnostic gaps, leaving TB undetected and untreated.

The investment will fund comprehensive clinical trials comparing the Lung Flute ECO's performance against existing diagnostic methods, including saline induction, nasopharyngeal aspirates, and tongue swabs in paediatric populations.

The project will also assess the device's effectiveness in community screening programmes when combined with digital chest X-ray and

computer-aided detection technology. Data on diagnostic yield, safety, patient acceptability, and cost-effectiveness will be collected and synchronised across all three countries for pooled analysis designed to meet World Health Organization guideline review criteria.

Beyond the clinical research, the project aims to establish sustainable local manufacturing capacity on the continent, ensuring that African healthcare systems can access and afford the technology long after the research phase concludes.

"The commitment to local manufacturing represents a fundamental shift in how global health innovation reaches African populations," noted the project documentation. "Rather than perpetual dependence on imported diagnostics, this approach builds African capacity to produce and distribute life-saving technologies." The TB investment is part of six projects totalling Sh1.14 billion (\$8.8 million) announced by the GHIT Fund.

Beyond tuberculosis, GHIT is investing Sh77.4 million (\$0.6 million) in a multistage malaria vaccine project targeting *Plasmodium falciparum*, the deadliest malaria parasite species that causes the majority of malaria deaths in sub-Saharan Africa. The vaccine, being developed by PATH, Ehime University, Sumitomo Pharma, and Danish institutions, aims to provide more comprehensive protection than existing vaccines like RTS, S and R21, potentially saving thousands of African lives annually.

A Sh64.5 million (\$0.5 million) AI-guided drug discovery programme for schistosomiasis also holds particular relevance for Africa, where this parasitic disease imposes devastating health and economic burdens on millions. The largest single investment in the portfolio, Sh528.9 million (\$4.1 million), supports development of an mRNA vaccine targeting vivax malaria. While vivax malaria primarily affects Asia and Latin America, the innovative vaccine approach could inform future malaria research globally.

Precision Medicine

Landmark African genomic project aims to reshape global medicine

BY MARY WANGARI

Kenya is among the African participants in a critical scientific initiative that could reshape modern medicine by incorporating African datasets, which have long been overlooked.

Dubbed *Assessing Genetic Diversity in Africa (AGenDA)*, the project aims to uncover millions of new genetic variants. This could reshape how treatments are tailored and how disease risks are predicted globally.

Kenya, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, Tunisia, Angola, and Libya are the nine nations participating in the project, which is coordinated by South Africa in partnership with local researchers.

Subjects drawn from underrepresented groups, including Bantu-speaking



communities, Indian Ocean populations, hunter-gatherer societies, and North African and Nilo-Saharan peoples, are participating through a model of scientific co-creation.

This groundbreaking initiative could greatly benefit health systems worldwide by revealing new insights into diseases like cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and mental illness, according to experts.

For too long, scientific research has re-

lied on datasets largely drawn from populations of European ancestry to predict disease risks and customise treatments globally. These Eurocentric genetic models result in poor disease prediction for African populations, who remain drastically underrepresented in genomic studies; a disparity that disadvantages them in the era of modern, precision medicine.

Experts note that Africa's genetic composition is the oldest and most diverse on Earth. Consequently, two individuals from Africa can be more genetically distinct from each other than a person from Asia or Europe is from either. Excluding this vast diversity means genetic tools yield inaccurate health predictions and miss critical disease-risk variants.

To correct this, scientists have now assembled a comprehensive new genom-

ic dataset drawn from over 1,000 African communities that have been historically absent from global genetic databases.

The study, titled *Enriching African Genome Representation Through the AGenDA Project* and published this month, aims to significantly broaden the scientific understanding of human genetic diversity. The paper notes: "African populations remain substantially under-represented in research studies and global genomic databases"

It underscores Africa's unique status as "the ancestral home of anatomically modern humans," highlighting its unparalleled genetic diversity, which has been shaped by "a deep and complex evolution over hundreds of thousands of years of human migration, admixture, and exposure to climate changes and infectious agents." "Yet, our present view

of genomic diversity in Africa is sparse and poorly captures the rich variation across its more than 2,000 ethnolinguistic groups." According to the study's lead, Prof Michèle Ramsay, director of the Sydney Brenner Institute for Molecular Bioscience at Wits University, a large segment of genomic data used in medicine originates from Europeans.

"Because of this, the genetic pattern which guides modern medicine poorly predicts diseases in African populations as it is very Eurocentric," she explains. "AGenDA was designed to increase representation of African genomic data in global datasets."

Researchers emphasise that AGenDA is a testament to determination in challenging environments. "It is led from Africa by African investigators, who are the decision-makers in data-sharing processes. AGenDA is a step toward greater African representation... to advance genomic research towards enabling precision medicine for Africa and the world."

30 steps back

How the world is funding its own destruction

New Unep report shows that for every Sh129 spent protecting nature, Sh3,871 is spent degrading it

BY WAMBUI MBUTHIA

The global financial system faces a stark contradiction: it continues to fund the destruction of the very natural resources it depends on.

A recent United Nations Environment Programme (Unep) report reveals that for every dollar spent protecting nature (Sh129), USD 30 (Sh3,871) is spent degrading it.

The State of Finance for Nature 2026: Nature in the Red report warns that, in the wake of recent global crises, financial markets are not merely neglecting the environment; they are actively accelerating its decline.

In 2023 alone, an estimated USD7.3 trillion was channeled into activities that actively harm nature. These "nature-negative" investments are deeply embedded in the global economy, propping up industries such as fossil fuels, intensive agriculture, and unsustainable infrastructure development.

By contrast, only USD220 billion flowed into Nature-based Solutions (NbS); interventions that protect, restore, and sustainably manage ecosystems while benefiting both people and biodiversity. This \$30-to-\$1 spending gap highlights a big disconnect between financial priorities and the urgent need to safeguard the planet's life-support systems.

This imbalance signals a systemic economic risk. By spending 30 times

more on destruction than on protection, we are effectively subsidising the collapse of the very ecosystem services — clean water, pollination, flood regulation — that underpin global GDP. For every step taken toward restoration, we take 30 steps toward a future where the cost of living and doing business spirals beyond control, driven by environmental failure.

Inger Andersen, executive director of Unep, delivered a stark warning on these financial trends.

"If you follow the money, you see the size of the challenge ahead of us," she said. Andersen noted that while funding for nature-based solutions is growing slowly, harmful investments and subsidies are accelerating far faster. She urged world leaders to recognise the choice before them: "We can either invest in nature's destruction or power its recovery. There is no middle ground."

In Kenya, this global funding imbalance is visible in the struggle to balance urban growth with environmental protection. The country's rapidly expanding secondary cities face soaring populations, overstretched infrastructure, and mounting climate risks such as floods, droughts, and intensifying heatwaves. Nature-based Solutions offer a viable path forward. Rather than replicating the destructive financial patterns laid bare in the UN report, Kenya's emerging urban centres have an opportunity to embed NbS from the outset, building



A cargo train arrives at the Mombasa SGR Miritini Station on October 24, 2025. Though economically significant, the SGR path through wildlife corridors has been criticised for disrupting natural processes and increasing human-elephant conflict. PHOTO | KEVIN ODIT

resilience and inclusivity into their growth. Promising models already exist. Mikoko Pamoja in Gazi Bay, the world's first community-led mangrove carbon credit project, has restored hectares of vital coastal forest while using revenues to fund clean water and education for thousands. In the Chyulu Hills, landscape restoration efforts are paired with a national monitoring framework that tracks how ecosystem recovery enhances water regulation for downstream communities; demonstrating that restoration and development can advance together.

Negative expenditures

However, these green wins often exist in the shadow of far larger, nature-negative expenditures.

While the courts halted the proposed Lamu Coal Plant in late 2025, citing its projected annual emissions of 8.8 million tonnes of CO₂, other major infrastructure projects like the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) extension, continue. Though economically significant, the SGR path through

wildlife corridors in Tsavo and wetlands toward Malaba has been criticised for disrupting natural processes and increasing human-elephant conflict, a clear example of how traditional infrastructure spending can inadvertently harm the natural capital we aim to protect.

The UN report highlights a deepening divide in how public and private sectors engage with nature. Governments currently provide nearly 90 per cent of all finance for nature-based solutions; approximately USD 190 billion of the USD 220 billion total. Yet, they simultaneously channel an estimated USD 2.4 trillion into environmentally harmful subsidies for sectors such as transport, water, and energy.

This contradiction echoes in Kenya. National policy frameworks including the Constitution (2010), Kenya Vision 2030, and the Climate Change Act (2016) support nature-based solutions. Yet implementation is frequently undermined by overlapping mandates and weak cross-agency coordination.

The private sector's role is even more less balanced. Of the USD7.3 trillion spent annually on nature-negative activities, USD 4.9 trillion originates from private companies; primarily in utilities and basic materials. Yet, private investment in nature-based solutions stands at just USD 23.4 billion, accounting for a mere 10 per cent of total NbS finance.

In Kenya, meaningful private sector engagement remains elusive. Much of the country's urban expansion occurs outside formal planning frameworks, with limited oversight and weak enforcement. Professional bodies and civil society organisations, though active, often lack the technical and financial capacity to structure bankable green projects. Globally, the gap is urgent. To meet the targets of the Rio Conventions, annual investment in nature must more than double; reaching USD571 billion by 2030.

Locally, this means better coordination between urban planning, climate, and biodiversity policies. The Kenya Urban Support Program provides cities with the opportunity to adopt resilient solutions, but complex rules and technical requirements often make it difficult for local groups to secure funding. Improving coordination among national ministries, county governments, and cities is key to ensuring funds and grants reach projects that support NbS.

Despite these challenges, there are positive examples in Kenya that show change is possible, with projects demonstrating that external funding from development banks and international partners can be sufficient. Such examples support the UN's call to see nature as an economic opportunity. By adding more green spaces to cities and integrating nature into roads and energy systems, cities can reduce climate risks and support local economies. Still, the UN report warns that continuing current practices will only make things worse for the economy and the environment. The report introduces the "Nature Transition X-Curve," which guides policymakers toward gradually ending harmful subsidies and increasing nature-friendly investments.

Z2 Powering SME

Empowering women in peanut value chain

Mamlo Foods operates a micro-factory model allowing women farmers to process peanuts into high-value products P. 2-3



A display of groundnut- based products, developed by Mamlo Foods, in Amagoro, Busia County to add value to raw peanuts. PHOTO | ALEX ODHIAMBO

DN2 Powering SME

Immense benefits The enterprise provides training on value addition, food safety and the benefits of group selling,

How Mamlo Foods local micro-factories

The firm rebuilds the groundnut value chain from the community outward, placing small production units close to farms allowing farmers to gain greater control over how their crops are sold

BY MARGARET MAINA

Across the red soils of Western Kenya, women move through peanut fields, checking plants that will soon be harvested and sold. The air carries the smell of earth and labour, of crops grown with care and too often sold for far less than their market value.

For decades, these harvests left villages as raw commodities, with most of their economic value created elsewhere.

Peanuts, cassava, bananas and indigenous grains often pass through informal networks dominated by middlemen, who set prices and control access. Processing usually occurs far away, leaving farmers with little leverage and minimal returns.

"I grew up in a farming environment and later trained in food science and technology," says Irene Etyang.

She observes that farmers are not poor because they lack productivity, but because they lack ownership over value.

"I watched women do everything right and still struggle. They planted, harvested and worked hard. The problem was never effort. The system was designed so that value was created elsewhere," she adds.

Ms Etyang founded Mamlo Foods to tackle this challenge. The social enterprise and agricultural technology firm operates community-based, solar-powered, containerised micro-factories within farming communities in Amagoro, Busia County.

The company rebuilds the groundnut value chain from the community outward, placing small production units close to farms.

At these micro-factories, peanuts are processed on-site, transforming raw crops into higher-value food products. Farmers gain greater control over how their crops are sold and retain more of the profits from their labour.

"Each unit processes groundnuts and other crops grown within a roughly 50-kilometre radius, ensuring value addition happens close to the source. Instead of sending raw peanuts to distant urban centres, we process them locally," she explains.

This proximity delivers immediate financial and livelihood benefits, as transport costs

fall, post-harvest losses shrink, and profits remain within the community. With more than 10 years of experience across food processing, product development, and agribusiness, she also brings policy insight to her work. She has contributed to discussions shaping Kenya's agricultural trade environment, particularly around strengthening inter-county trade.

Ms Etyang says that starting the company required disciplined choices, and that its early capital of Sh2.5 million came from a blend of personal savings, innovation grants and impact-focused support programmes.

Rather than investing in large centralised plants, resources were directed toward prototyping equipment, developing food safety systems and building trust within communities. Scalability was pursued through repetition, not scale through concentration.

But that path came with obstacles. "Trust was the first challenge. Many farmers had encountered short-lived projects that promised transformation but delivered little," she says.

Mamlo Foods invested time before transactions, working with farmer clusters to explain ownership structures, revenue sharing, and operational responsibilities. Progress was gradual, but credibility grew through consistency.

Access to finance presented another barrier. Container-based factories co-owned by rural women did not fit conventional lending templates.

She navigated this through blended financing and partnerships with organisations that understood social enterprise models. Operational hurdles followed, from training first-time processors in food safety standards to managing logistics in regions with limited infrastructure.

"There were days when it felt like the need was running faster than our capacity. But we were intentional about building something that would last," she admits.

Each micro factory is equipped with shared smart dehydration technologies that significantly improve quality and safety. These systems operate at controlled temperatures, reducing drying times and limiting spoilage.

Crucially, they address aflatoxin contamination, a persistent threat in groundnut production. Aflatoxin poses serious health risks and can render entire harvests unsellable, wiping out in-



Rahab Waruguru Muthui, an employee of Mamlo Foods, holds a product transformed from raw peanuts into value-added goods.

come for farming families.

The efficient, controlled drying processes allow farmers to protect their crops and meet higher market standards. The company currently operates its micro-factory system at approximately 55 per cent utilisation.

"We source shelled peanuts from organised clusters of smallholder farmers trained and supported in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture at the sub-county level," she says.

Each micro-factory is a right-sized community enterprise de-

signed to process up to 180,000 kg of peanuts per year, anchoring value addition, jobs, and income generation within rural communities.

Throughout the growing season, farmers are supported in all stages of production and once

WORKFORCE

Active smallholder farmers in the supply chain

Mamlo currently employs 15 staff and works with approximately 500 smallholder farmers, more than 70 per cent of whom are active suppliers within its sourcing network.



Percentage of smallholder farmers who are active suppliers

the peanuts are dried, shelled, graded, and purchased through the structured sourcing system, payments are made within 14 to 28 working days.

At production site, peanuts are cleaned, roasted, refined and processed into peanut butter under food-grade systems.

Finished products are filled into 800g, 400g, 250g and 125g jars, then sealed, batch-coded, labelled, and packed before being distributed to dukas and mini-marts. At current production levels, the company turns out over 20,000 jars per month across this mixed packaging range.

It is also expanding value ad-

DN2 Powering SME

while connecting farmers to larger, higher-paying buyers in a bid to boost income and market access

are changing farming in Western region



A display of groundnut-based products, developed by Mamlo Foods to add value to raw peanuts. PHOTOS | ALEX ODHIAMBO | NATION

dition into other high-potential crops such as millet, sesame, moringa and amaranth, adding plant-based protein foods to its product range.

At present, the company offers several core products, including peanut butter and roasted peanuts, made for both household consumers and institutional buyers such as government agencies, food companies, schools and nutrition programmes that require safe, traceable, and scalable protein supply.

Products are positioned to balance affordability and quality. They remain accessible to local households while accounting for the added value of safe, traceable processing.

This pricing strategy allows farmers to earn more by reducing intermediaries, without making products prohibitively expensive for the community.

A jar of the peanut butter is priced competitively against imported and urban alternatives, yet farmers earn more due to reduced intermediaries and local-



Irene Etyang, food scientist and founder of Mamlo Foods, during the interview about empowering farmers through value-added food production.

value chains, communities become active creators of value. Income circulates locally. Assets remain locally owned," she adds.

Livelihoods in the area are becoming more secure and resilient to external shocks.

Beyond this, environmental considerations are integrated into operations, solar energy reduces reliance on fossil fuels, shorter supply chains cut transport emissions, and lower waste limits resource loss between the field and the consumer.

The company also plans to establish additional micro-factories, broaden product lines, and strengthen market access without compromising ownership structures.

"Real empowerment does not come from external control but from within communities. When people have the tools, the technology and the trust to use them, they define their own path to prosperity," she says in conclusion.

ised production: "Our goal was never premium for the sake of image. It was fairness. Farmers deserve better returns, and families deserve food they can afford and trust," she says.

The benefits to farmers extend well beyond pricing. Women organised into clusters become co-owners of the micro factories. They earn from crop sales and share in processing revenue.

Skills training in food safety, equipment handling, cluster governance, and marketing builds long-term capacity within the community, strengthening resilience season after season.

The social impact extends beyond the factory itself. The micro-factory model creates employment for rural youth in processing, logistics, and distribution.

Mamlo currently employs 15 staff and works with approximately 500 smallholder farmers, more than 70 per cent of whom are active suppliers within its sourcing network.

Women take on leadership roles and gain greater economic influence within their communities.

"Rather than remaining passive at the base of agricultural

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DN2 Powering SME

From waste to wealth Desks made from recycled plastic are sold for about Sh8,500 at Jirani Recyclers Kenya



Jirani Recyclers Kenya founder Angila Onyango displays boards produced from recycled plastic in his workshop in Kibera, Nairobi, on January 28. PHOTOS | BONFACE BOGITA | NATION

Plastic and organic waste now a resource in Kibera

Organic waste collected from households, markets, and vendors is processed into compost at a community-based enterprise, which supports urban farming and small-scale livestock production

BY MARGARET MAINA

In Kibera, smoke curls from burning waste, plastic crunches under hurried feet, and the sharp, sour stench forces passers-by to cover their noses and walk past briskly.

Garbage spills into roads, drains, and daily life. It is the kind of scene most people learn to ignore — a signal of neglect and quiet surrender.

But in this chaos, Onyango Angila, 29, does not see filth, but materials that can be reused and transformed.

The problems in Kibera are visible everywhere. Children play among piles of waste. Vendors work beside it, and households burn refuse when there is no formal disposal system.

"I wondered how a community could be drowning in plastic while struggling to afford basic materials. That question stayed with me through conversations, observations, and long days of thought," Angila says.

Observing the waste piling up in the streets and landfills,

INNOVATION

Onyango Angila's humble beginnings

Age of Onyango Angila, who is the founder of Jirani Recyclers Kenya. He started off as a waste collector at 14 years old, when he realised that the scraps he picked could be turned into something useful.

29

he recognised an opportunity to turn discarded materials into resources.

Much of it — plastic bottles, torn bags, broken containers, and leftover food — created health and environmental hazards. Amid this, dozens of people scavenge through the garbage every



School desks made from recycled plastic at Jirani Recyclers Kenya production facility in Kibera, Nairobi.

day, collecting items they can sell to recyclers.

"I started as a waste picker at the age of 14, walking the streets of Kibera with a sack on my back, collecting scraps most people ignored. I saw potential in every piece," Angila says.

The early work was experimental. Plastics were cleaned, melted with basic tools, and shaped into simple, usable forms. Food scraps and biodegradable market waste were collected and tested for composting and Black Soldier Fly Larvae production.

Angila began with a small

amount of capital from his personal savings, supplemented by support from his father and a few well-wishers.

This funding enabled him to rent a workshop, buy basic machinery for processing plastics, and acquire supplies for composting and larvae production.

"We had very little to work with, so every purchase had to be practical," he says.

The investment made it possible to test different processes and figure out what could work in a community with limited infrastructure.

Results were uneven at first, but each small success showed that discarded materials could be transformed into products with real value.

"Plastic that once clogged drains and poisoned the air can be reshaped into products that last for years and resist decay," Angila says.

Over time, these experiments developed into Jirani Recyclers Kenya, a community-based enterprise addressing waste management challenges through a structured system for both plastic and organic waste.

Inside the recycling centre, plastics are sorted by type, washed, shredded, heated, and moulded into durable products used in construction, farming, and schools.

Desks made from recycled plastic sell for approximately Sh8,500 depending on specifications, while compost and construction materials are offered at rates slightly below conventional options.

"We had to ensure the products made sense financially. If they are too expensive, no one will buy them, and the system collapses," Angila explains.

Organic waste collected from households, markets, and vendors is processed into compost, supporting urban farming and small-scale livestock production.

The operation is also designed to build skills alongside products, with community members trained in sorting, upcycling, and basic manufacturing techniques.

"Community members, particularly youth and women, are trained in sorting, upcycling, and basic manufacturing techniques that allow them to earn income. We have trained over 400 people to date," Angila says.

The integration of organic waste into the system reduces pressure on dumpsites while expanding economic impact. Urban farmers gain access to affordable compost, and livestock keepers benefit from a local source of feed, linking waste management to food production.

Angila explains that waste collection is supported through door-to-door initiatives and school-based programs that promote responsible disposal and environmental awareness.

Partnerships with local authorities and community leaders help strengthen neighbourhood waste systems in areas where formal infrastructure remains limited.

"Each product exists because it meets a real need. They last longer, perform better, and reduce replacement costs. People can see the difference in their daily lives," he says.

Waste collectors, who once worked informally, now earn an income, supplying materials. Young people are gaining practical skills. The streets are cleaner due to reduced dumping.